

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-first General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

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SM18-001

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Crowder,

Senate Committees

SENATE MEMORIAL 18-001

101 **MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO ACTIVELY PURSUE THE RETURN OF**
102 **THE U.S.S. PUEBLO FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF THE**
103 **DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA.**

1 WHEREAS, Recent actions by the Democratic People's Republic
2 of Korea (North Korea) suggest that North Korea and South Korea have
3 entered into a new phase of their relationship; and

4 WHEREAS, While the Declaration of War between North and
5 South Korea has not yet been rescinded, the recent meeting between the
6 leaders of the two countries - just the second such meeting since 1948 -
7 has resulted in some measure of détente between the parties; and

8 WHEREAS, The people of Colorado are encouraged and hopeful
9 for continued positive developments on the Korean peninsula, as
10 evidenced by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's recent meeting with
11 North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump's planned
12 diplomatic trip; and

13 WHEREAS, Colorado encourages North Korea to continue to
14 work with South Korea and the United States in making substantial

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

SENATE
Amended Final Rdg
May 8, 2018

1 efforts to reform its record of human rights abuses, to release political
2 prisoners, and to return property belonging to other countries; and

3 WHEREAS, North Korea's human rights record has been
4 considered among the worst in the world and has been globally
5 condemned, with groups such as the United Nations, Amnesty
6 International, Human Rights Watch, and the European Union all critical
7 of the country's record. Indeed, most international human rights
8 organizations consider North Korea to have no contemporary parallel
9 with respect to violations of liberty; and

10 WHEREAS, North Korea's human rights abuses include slave
11 labor, no freedom of expression or religion, active persecution of
12 Christians and Buddhists, no free press, no freedom of movement, uneven
13 distribution of food to the privileged and starvation of the poor, forced
14 prostitution, and forced abortion; and

15 WHEREAS, In North Korea, political crimes are greatly varied,
16 from border crossing to any disturbance of the political order, and they
17 are rigorously punished. Due to the dire prison conditions with hunger
18 and torture, a large percentage of prisoners do not survive their sentence
19 term; and

20 WHEREAS, North Korea holds three United States citizens as
21 political prisoners. The three political prisoners, Kim Hak-song, Kim
22 Dong-chul, and Kim Sang-duk are three of an estimated 80,000 to
23 120,000 people in North Korea's six political prison camps, in which the
24 U.S. State Department has found evidence of starvation, forced labor, and
25 torture; and

26 WHEREAS, Kim Hak-song is a Korean-American who worked at
27 the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST). Kim was
28 arrested for "hostile acts" against the state; and

29 WHEREAS, Kim Dong-chul is a South Korea-born businessman
30 and naturalized United States citizen. Kim had been living in China with
31 his wife, and owns a business in a special economic zone of North Korea
32 and is a Christian missionary. Kim was arrested for "espionage" in
33 October 2015; and

34 WHEREAS, Kim Sang-duk is a Korean-American former
35 professor teaching accounting at the Business Administration School of

1 Yanbian University of Science and Technology (YUST) in the
2 northeastern Chinese city of Yanji, near the Chinese border with North
3 Korea. At the time of his arrest, Kim had completed a one-month
4 assignment as a guest lecturer in international finance and management
5 at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST). Kim
6 was arrested for "hostile criminal acts with an aim to subvert the country"
7 in April 2017; and

8 WHEREAS, The release of these three Americans from North
9 Korean labor camps would be a unique and powerful gesture of peace and
10 reconciliation; and

11 WHEREAS, Another gesture to thaw relations and bring healing
12 is to return the only U.S. ship currently under the control of a foreign
13 county; and

14 WHEREAS, The U.S.S. Pueblo was originally launched as a
15 United States Army cargo ship in 1944 and was transferred to the United
16 States Navy and renamed the U.S.S. Pueblo in 1966 in honor of the City
17 of Pueblo and the County of Pueblo, Home of Heros and four National
18 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients; and

19 WHEREAS, The U.S.S. Pueblo was captured by North Korea on
20 January 23, 1968, while in international waters. During the efforts to
21 escape, one crewmember was killed in action. North Korea captured 80
22 crewmembers and two oceanographers as well as the U.S.S. Pueblo. The
23 82 prisoners were thankfully released 11 months later; and

24 WHEREAS, The North Korean government uses the U.S.S.
25 Pueblo as an exhibit at the Victorious Fatherland War Museum in
26 Pyongyang, filled with propaganda and historical inaccuracies; now,
27 therefore,

28 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly*
29 *of the State of Colorado:*

30 That we, the Senate of the State of Colorado:

31 (1) Demand the release of the three United States citizens, Kim
32 Hak-song, Kim Dong-chul and Kim Sang-duk;

33 (2) Request the release of the nearly 120,000 political prisoners

1 from North Korea's six political camps;

2 (3) Encourage North Korea to engage in meaningful human rights
3 reformations;

4 (4) Support the recent peaceful actions of North Korea and remain
5 hopeful that the nation will continue on a positive course for the rights of
6 its citizens and for sake of global security;

7 (5) Believe that the return of the U.S.S. Pueblo to the people of
8 Colorado and the United States would be a good faith action by North
9 Korea in furtherance of improving relations; and

10 (6) Strongly urge Congress, the President, and the President's
11 Administration to actively pursue the release of North Korea's political
12 prisoners, the return of the three United States citizens being unlawfully
13 detained, and the restoration of the U.S.S. Pueblo to its rightful home.

14 *Be it Further Resolved*, that copies of this Memorial be sent to
15 President Donald J Trump; Mike Pompeo, Secretary of State; Marc
16 Knapper, Charge d'Affaires ad interim to South Korea; and Colorado's
17 Congressional delegation.

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