

**Statement for the Record
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
H.Con.Res. 41 – Reaffirming U.S. support to South Korea
Wednesday, July 31, 2013**

Mr. Speaker, I fully support H.Con.Res 41 – Encouraging peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula. I would like to thank Congressman Rangel for bringing this bill forward and thank him for his service as a Korean War Veteran.

This past week marked the 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and I want to thank all of our service men and women who served and continue to serve in Korea. This timely resolution recognizes the historical importance of the Korean War and honors the service and sacrifice of the U.S. Armed Forces and the armed forces of allied countries that served, and continue to serve, in Korea. It reaffirms the commitment of the United States to our alliance with South Korea, and calls on North Korea to abide by international law and cease its nuclear proliferation in order to resume talks that could lead to peace and reunification.

As one of our strongest allies in that region, South Korea stands firmly for the ideals of democracy and freedom. This bill sends a strong message to the people of South Korea that we stand with them on their struggle against North Korean oppression. Our policy should be clear: the oppressive Pyongyang regime will face continued sanctions and isolation unless it ceases its illicit activities and its persistent threats against us and our allies.

I hope that one day Koreans will be able to reunite, and this bill helps promote this noble cause.