

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 115-23
OFFERED BY MR. DUNCAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle H of title XII, add the following:

1 **SEC. 12 ____ . SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE WESTERN HEMI-**
2 **SPHERE REGION.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that—

4 (1) the security, stability, and prosperity of the
5 Western Hemisphere region are vital to the national
6 interests of the United States;

7 (2) the United States should maintain a mili-
8 tary capability in the Western Hemisphere region
9 that is able to project power, build partner capacity,
10 deter acts of aggression, and respond, if necessary,
11 to regional threats or to threats to the national secu-
12 rity of the United States by the activities of Iran,
13 China, Russia, North Korea, transnational criminal
14 organizations, or terrorist organizations in the re-
15 gion;

16 (3) continuing efforts by the Department of De-
17 fense to commit additional assets and increase in-
18 vestments to the Western Hemisphere are necessary

1 to maintain a robust United States commitment to
2 the region;

3 (4) the Secretary of Defense should—

4 (A) assess the current United States force
5 posture in the Western Hemisphere to ensure
6 that the United States maintains an appro-
7 priate forward presence in the region;

8 (B) prioritize—

9 (i) intelligence, surveillance, and re-
10 connaissance;

11 (ii) maritime patrol aircraft to sup-
12 port detection and monitoring missions;

13 (iii) efforts to disrupt and degrade
14 transregional and transnational threat net-
15 works; and

16 (iv) when possible, efforts to support
17 the mission of the Department of Home-
18 land Security, as requested, in monitoring
19 individuals identified by the Secretary of
20 Homeland Security as “special interest
21 aliens” or as “foreign terrorist fighters”;
22 and

23 (C) enhance regional force readiness
24 through joint training and exercises; and

1 (5) the United States should continue to engage
2 in the Western Hemisphere by strengthening alli-
3 ances and partnerships, working with regional insti-
4 tutions, addressing the shared challenges of illicit
5 trafficking of humans, drugs, and other contraband,
6 transnational criminal organizations, and foreign
7 terrorist fighters, and supporting the rule of law and
8 democracy in the region.

