

**AMENDMENT TO THE COMMITTEE PRINT OF H.R.
1960
OFFERED BY MR. TURNER OF OHIO**

Amend section 1244 to read as follows:

1 **SEC. 1244. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DEFENSE COOPERA-**
2 **TION WITH GEORGIA.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) Over 100 former Georgian Government offi-
5 cials have been charged since the October 2012 par-
6 liamentary elections, and many of these charges ap-
7 pear to be unfounded.

8 (2) Such charges have been filed against a mul-
9 titude of current and former Georgian Government
10 officials, including Vano Merabishvili, the Secretary
11 General of the United National Movement.

12 (3) The arrest of the leader of an opposition
13 party is deeply concerning in part due to the poten-
14 tial chilling effect on political freedom before the up-
15 coming presidential election in Georgia.

16 (4) The Georgian Government has taken vir-
17 tually no action to respond to violence against mem-
18 bers of the opposition party, UNM, including local
19 government officials like the mayor of Tblisi.

1 (5) These trends are alarming given the tre-
2 mendous political growth and development that has
3 occurred in Georgia since the Rose Revolution.

4 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that—

6 (1) the Department of State should be unam-
7 biguous when democratic backsliding occurs in a key
8 ally after a peaceful and democratic transfer of
9 power between political parties;

10 (2) the trends in Georgia could impact the rela-
11 tionship of that country and the United States, in-
12 cluding on matters such as Georgia’s aspirations for
13 membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organiza-
14 tion and efforts to enhance defense cooperation ef-
15 forts to provide for the defense of Georgia, its peo-
16 ple, and sovereign territory, of which Congress is
17 otherwise supportive; and

18 (3) the people of the United States and the
19 Members of Congress express their deepest condo-
20 lences to the Georgian people on the tragic loss of
21 seven soldiers of Georgia in a suicide bombing on
22 June 6, 2013, and the deaths fo three soldiers killed
23 in another suicide bombing on May 13, 2013, while

1 they were supporting United States and NATO
2 forces in Afghanistan.

