

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT  
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At the end of subtitle E of title XII of division A,  
add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 12\_\_ . STATEMENT OF POLICY ON INTERNAL REBUILD-**  
2 **ING, RESETTLEMENT, AND RECONCILIATION**  
3 **WITHIN SRI LANKA.**

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

5 (1) It has been 4 years since the end of the 26-  
6 year long conflict between the Liberation Tigers of  
7 Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which was declared a foreign  
8 terrorist organization in 1997, and the Government  
9 of Sri Lanka.

10 (2) The people of Sri Lanka suffered greatly as  
11 a result of this conflict, the impact, and aftermath  
12 of which has been felt especially by women, children,  
13 and families.

14 (3) The Government of Sri Lanka established a  
15 Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission  
16 (LLRC) to report whether any person, group, or in-  
17 stitution directly or indirectly bears responsibility for  
18 incidents that occurred between February 2002 and

1 May 2009, and to recommend measures to prevent  
2 the recurrence of such incidents in the future and  
3 promote further national unity and reconciliation  
4 among all communities.

5 (4) The LLRC report was presented to the Sri  
6 Lankan Parliament on December 16, 2011, and offi-  
7 cially translated into Sinhala and Tamil on August  
8 16, 2012, and took note of the LLRC report's pos-  
9 sible contribution to the process of national reconcili-  
10 ation in Sri Lanka.

11 (5) The LLRC report acknowledges important  
12 events and grievances that have contributed to dec-  
13 ades of political violence and civil war in Sri Lanka  
14 and makes constructive recommendations on a wide  
15 range of issues, including the need to credibly inves-  
16 tigate widespread allegations of extrajudicial killings,  
17 enforced disappearances, and intentional targeting of  
18 civilians and noncombatants, demilitarizing the  
19 north and the country as a whole, reaching a polit-  
20 ical settlement with minority communities on the  
21 meaningful devolution of power, and promoting and  
22 protecting the right to freedom of expression for all  
23 through the enactment of a right to information law  
24 and additional rule of law reforms.

1           (6) The United States, Canada, the United  
2           Kingdom, India, and other governments and inter-  
3           governmental organizations have called on the Gov-  
4           ernment of Sri Lanka to implement the rec-  
5           ommendations of its own LLRC Report.

6           (7) The Government of Sri Lanka expressed its  
7           commitment to address the needs of all ethnic  
8           groups, notably the Tamils and Muslims, and has  
9           recognized, in the past, the necessity of a political  
10          settlement and reconciliation for a peaceful and just  
11          society.

12          (8) The Government of Sri Lanka has devel-  
13          oped the National Plan of Action to implement some  
14          of the 285 recommendations of the LLRC.

15          (9) The Government of Sri Lanka has made  
16          progress on rehabilitation, resettlement of displaced  
17          persons, and improvement of infrastructure in the  
18          north and east.

19          (10) The LLRC noted that the failure of suc-  
20          cessive governments to implement the “critical rec-  
21          ommendations of past commissions gives rise to un-  
22          derstandable criticism and skepticism regarding  
23          Government appointed Commissions from which the  
24          LLRC has not been spared”.

1           (11) Progress on investigations into reports of  
2 war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other  
3 human rights violations during the conflict and pro-  
4 moting reconciliation would facilitate enhanced  
5 United States engagement, bilateral trade, and in-  
6 vestment in Sri Lanka and coincide with United  
7 States policy that such commissions of inquiry have  
8 been instrumental in providing accountability and  
9 redressing wrongdoing during periods of internal  
10 strife.

11           (12) The Government of Sri Lanka's failure to  
12 conduct a credible investigation into alleged war  
13 crimes and human rights abuses committed by all  
14 sides and to implement its own stated priorities of  
15 post-conflict reconciliation, accountability, and re-  
16 form as set forth by the LLRC precludes a lasting  
17 settlement and encourages continued national strife  
18 that has the potential to further destabilize a region  
19 vital to United States diplomatic and strategic inter-  
20 ests.

21           (13) A firm statement advocating for truth, jus-  
22 tice, and accountability into continued reports of  
23 militarization, kidnapping and intimidation, and  
24 extrajudicial killings since the cessation of conflict in  
25 2009 comports with statements and recommenda-

1 tions by key figures, experts, and institutions in the  
2 international community as exemplified by the  
3 United Nations High Commissioner for Human  
4 Rights Navi Pillay’s February 11, 2013, report call-  
5 ing for an “independent and credible international  
6 investigation into alleged violations of international  
7 human rights and humanitarian law”, and also reaf-  
8 firms central rhetorical and institutional commit-  
9 ments supported by the United States and its allies,  
10 particularly the March 21, 2013, United Nations  
11 Human Rights Council resolution echoing the con-  
12 clusions of Commissioner Pillay’s report and advo-  
13 cating for the “establishment of a truth-seeking  
14 mechanism as an integral part of a more comprehen-  
15 sive and inclusive approach to transitional justice”.

16 (14) A statement urging the Government of Sri  
17 Lanka to follow through on its own recommenda-  
18 tions in a transparent, timely manner conforms with  
19 the obligations of the United States and all nations  
20 to advocate for peace and stability in the inter-  
21 national community without infringing upon the sov-  
22 ereignty of the Government of Sri Lanka or express-  
23 ing a sense of support for any party in the conflict.

24 (15) The United States is home to a large com-  
25 munity of ethnic Sri Lankans and expatriates out-

1 side of Sri Lanka, many of which have a salient,  
2 emotional interest in a meaningful resolution to the  
3 country's violence and political turmoil.

4 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—Congress—

5 (1) calls on the Government of Sri Lanka to  
6 build on its establishment of the Lessons Learnt and  
7 Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) and that Com-  
8 mission's constructive recommendations on issues of  
9 paramount importance to Sri Lanka in a credible,  
10 transparent, and expeditious manner;

11 (2) recognizes that the LLRC report did not  
12 adequately address issues of accountability for both  
13 the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Ti-  
14 gers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), for credible allega-  
15 tions of war crimes and crimes against humanity;

16 (3) calls for the establishment of a credible,  
17 international, independent accountability mechanism  
18 to look into allegations of war crimes, crimes against  
19 humanity, and other human rights violations com-  
20 mitted by all sides during and after the war in Sri  
21 Lanka, and to make recommendations regarding ac-  
22 countability;

23 (4) encourages the Government of Sri Lanka to  
24 allow for greater media freedoms and ensure the  
25 protection of journalists;

1           (5) urges the Government of Sri Lanka to allow  
2 humanitarian organizations and international human  
3 rights groups greater access to the war-affected, in-  
4 cluding rehabilitated ex-LTTE cadres, and those de-  
5 tained;

6           (6) acknowledges the end of the war and calls  
7 on the Government of Sri Lanka to prioritize a proc-  
8 ess of demilitarization throughout the country; and

9           (7) acknowledges the importance for parties to  
10 reach a political settlement on the meaningful decen-  
11 tralization of power and power-sharing.

