

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-

57

OFFERED BY MR. HUDSON OF NORTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle D of title I, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 1___.** **SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE ARMED**
2 **OVERWATCH PROGRAM.**

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

4 (1) The budget request of the Department of
5 Defense for fiscal year 2021 included requests for
6 \$101,000,000 for procurement, Defense-wide and
7 \$5,000,000 for research, development, test and eval-
8 uation, Defense-wide for the Armed Overwatch pro-
9 gram of the United States Special Operations Com-
10 mand.

11 (2) Congress supports the Armed Overwatch
12 Program but has serious concerns about its readi-
13 ness to move immediately into procurement, as re-
14 quested in the budget, and recommends \$53,000,000
15 million, a reduction of \$48,000,000 million, for air-
16 craft procurement.

17 (3) Program funding should be used to procure
18 and evaluate aircraft prototypes only after the Sec-

1 retary of Defense and Commander of United States
2 Special Operations Command have submitted to the
3 congressional defense committees the certifications,
4 requirements, and analyses required under section
5 134.

6 (4) It is expected that the Armed Overwatch
7 Program will ultimately provide a self-deployable
8 and sustainable manned airborne platform that can
9 provide multi-mission capabilities in austere and per-
10 missive environments to elements of special oper-
11 ations forces that currently lack those capabilities.

12 (5) Congress has made a significant multi-year
13 investment in manned airborne intelligence, surveil-
14 lance and reconnaissance for the national mission
15 force. This investment has yielded capabilities be-
16 yond those planned or achievable by the Armed
17 Overwatch program and an aircraft fleet that is sus-
18 tainable for more than decade into the future.

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

21 (1) the Armed Overwatch Program is additive
22 and complementary to currently fielded manned air-
23 borne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance
24 systems that support the Joint Special Operations
25 Command;

1 (2) given the continued high demand for these
2 current systems and their remaining service life,
3 Congress urges the United States Special Operations
4 Command to request full funding for system up-
5 grades across the future years defense program; and

6 (3) Congress opposes any plan to prematurely
7 retire any such systems.

