

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 116-4
OFFERED BY MR. BROWN OF MARYLAND

Add at the end the following:

1 **SEC. 6. STATEMENT OF CONGRESS.**

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

3 (1) The foreign terrorist organization al Qaeda,
4 responsible for the attacks of September 11, 2001,
5 maintains a presence in Afghanistan.

6 (2) The Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham, bet-
7 ter known by its acronym ISIS, flourished in the
8 chaos unleashed by the civil war in Syria and at one
9 point controlled extensive territory in Iraq and
10 Syria.

11 (3) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have
12 murdered thousands of innocent civilians.

13 (4) Al Qaeda, ISIS, and their affiliates have
14 proven resilient and have regrouped when the United
15 States and its partners have withdrawn from the
16 fight against them.

17 (b) STATEMENT OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

18 (1) acknowledges that the United States mili-
19 tary and our partners have made significant
20 progress in the campaign against al Qaeda and the

1 Islamic State of Iraq and al Sham (ISIS), and hon-
2 ors the contributions and sacrifice of the members of
3 the United States Armed Forces who have served on
4 the front lines of this fight;

5 (2) recognizes the continuing threat to the
6 homeland and our allies posed by al Qaeda and
7 ISIS, which maintain an ability to operate in Syria
8 and Afghanistan;

9 (3) expresses concern that Iran has supported
10 the Taliban in Afghanistan and Hizballah and the
11 Assad regime in Syria, and has sought to frustrate
12 diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts in these two
13 countries;

14 (4) recognizes the positive role the United
15 States and its partners have played in Syria and Af-
16 ghanistan fighting terrorist groups, countering Ira-
17 nian aggression, deterring the further use of chem-
18 ical weapons, and protecting human rights;

19 (5) warns that a precipitous withdrawal of
20 United States forces from the on-going fight against
21 these groups, without effective, countervailing efforts
22 to secure gains in Syria and Afghanistan, could
23 allow terrorists to regroup, destabilize critical re-
24 gions, and create vacuums that could be filled by

1 Iran or Russia, to the detriment of United States in-
2 terests and those of our allies;

3 (6) recognizes that al Qaeda and ISIS pose a
4 global threat, which merits increased international
5 contributions to the counterterrorism, diplomatic,
6 and stabilization efforts underway in Syria and Af-
7 ghanistan;

8 (7) recognizes that diplomatic efforts to secure
9 peaceful, negotiated solutions to the conflicts in
10 Syria and Afghanistan are necessary to long-term
11 stability and counterterrorism efforts in the Middle
12 East and South Asia;

13 (8) acknowledges the progress made by Special
14 Representative Khalilzad in his efforts to promote
15 reconciliation in Afghanistan;

16 (9) calls upon the Administration to conduct a
17 thorough review of the military and diplomatic strat-
18 egies in Syria and Afghanistan, including an assess-
19 ment of the risk that withdrawal from those coun-
20 tries could strengthen the power and influence of
21 Russia and Iran in the Middle East and South Asia
22 and undermine diplomatic efforts toward negotiated,
23 peaceful solutions;

24 (10) requests that the Administration, as part
25 of this review, solicit the views of Israel, our regional

1 partners, and other key troop-contributing nations in
2 the fight against al Qaeda and ISIS;

3 (11) reiterates support for international diplo-
4 matic efforts to facilitate peaceful, negotiated resolu-
5 tions to the on-going conflicts in Syria and Afghani-
6 stan on terms that respect the rights of innocent ci-
7 vilians and deny safe havens to terrorists;

8 (12) calls upon the Administration to pursue a
9 strategy that sets the conditions for the long-term
10 defeat of al Qaeda and ISIS, as well as the protec-
11 tion of regional partners and allies, while ensuring
12 that Iran cannot dominate the region or threaten
13 Israel;

14 (13) encourages close collaboration between the
15 Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch to en-
16 sure continuing strong, bipartisan support for
17 United States military operations in Syria and Af-
18 ghanistan; and

19 (14) calls upon the Administration to certify
20 that conditions have been met for the enduring de-
21 feat of al Qaeda and ISIS before initiating any sig-
22 nificant withdrawal of United States forces from
23 Syria or Afghanistan.

1 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
2 tion may be construed as a declaration of war or an au-
3 thorization of the use of military force.

