AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4435
OFFERED BY MR. SCHRADE OF OREGON

Add at the end of subtitle B of title IX, the following:

SEC. 9. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

  (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

  (1) Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mullen recognized the National Debt as the primary threat to the long-term security of the United States.

  (2) The National Debt of the United States is currently approaching $17.5 trillion.

  (3) The Department of Defense represents approximately half of the discretionary budget.

  (4) It is clear that the need to reduce debt and deficits for long-term security requires smarter, more cost effective, solutions to address the security risks of today.

  (5) Budget constraints are forcing the Department of Defense to reduce the number of active duty military personnel, combat aircraft, and warships available to meet our national security needs.
(6) The United States Armed Forces have ended combat operations and withdrawn from Iraq.

(7) The United States Armed Forces are completing the process of withdrawing from Afghanistan this year.

(8) The Reserve Forces Policy Board issued a report titled “Reserve Component Use, Balance, Cost and Savings: A Response to Questions for the Secretary of Defense” on February 11, 2014 which recognized the National Guard and Reserve as a strategically sound and cost-effective potential alternative to current force structures.

(9) The men and women of the National Guard and Reserves have proven themselves as a capable and ready force fighting alongside the active components of the Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

(10) The National Guard and Reserve leverages civilian expertise to diversify the capabilities and expertise of troops in combat zones and assigned to peacekeeping missions.

(11) The National Guard and Reserve provides an excellent avenue for maintaining a strong corps of non-commissioned officers who are the lifeblood of a well-trained and effective fighting force.
(12) The National Guard has an important domestic mission in support of the governors and citizens of the States.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States of America needs a smarter, more cost effective force structure to meet our near-term and long-term security needs, protect the homeland, maintain our dominance on the battlefield, keep our commitments to our allies, and reduce the burden of those unwavering commitments on American taxpayers;

(2) the United States of America has been well served both at home and abroad by the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve;

(3) the United States of America should entrust the National Guard and Reserve with further responsibility for maintaining our strategic readiness;

(4) the Department of Defense should implement the first ten recommendations made by the Reserve Forces Policy Board’s February 11, 2014 report “Reserve Component Use, Balance, Cost and Savings: A Response to Questions for the Secretary of Defense” to better utilize the National Guard and Reserve;
(5) before taking any action to implement the eleventh and twelfth recommendations of Reserve Forces Policy Board’s February 11, 2014 report “Reserve Component Use, Balance, Cost and Savings: A Response to Questions for the Secretary of Defense” the Secretary of Defense and Chief of the National Guard Bureau should conduct thorough reviews of the needs of the domestic mission of the National Guard in conjunction with the governor and adjutant general of each State affected by that action and take no action within a State against the recommendation of the governor of that State without a compelling reason and first reporting an intention to take such action, along with specific replies to the governor’s recommendations, to Congress at least ninety days prior to taking that action;

(6) in addition to the above implementation, the Secretary of Defense should direct the Reserve Forces Policy Board to lead and conduct a review to draw on the implementation of the above recommendations, evaluate current strategy and force structure, identify those missions that would be most cost-effective to assign to the National Guard and Reserve, and develop recommendations to be reported and briefed to President of the United States,
the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint
Chiefs of Staff, and the Chairs and Ranking Mem-
bers of the House and Senate Armed Services Com-
mittees, or to their representatives on strategically
sound options for transferring missions and end
strength from the active-component to the National
Guard and Reserve-components of the total force
where those missions can be more cost-effectively as-
signed; and

(7) in developing those recommendations the
Reserve Forces Policy Board should regularly con-
sult with and take comments for consideration from
the Secretaries of the Military Departments, the
Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and the Gov-
ernors of the Several States, or their designated rep-
resentatives.