

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To express the sense of Congress concerning the ongoing conflict in Syria, which reached its six-year mark in March 2017, the ensuing humanitarian crisis in Syria and neighboring countries, the resulting humanitarian and national security challenges, and the urgent need for a political solution to the crisis.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 1st Sess.

H. R. 390

To provide emergency relief for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes in Iraq and Syria, for accountability for perpetrators of these crimes, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. MURPHY)

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:

2 **SEC. ____ . SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE URGENT NEED FOR**

3 **A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE CRISIS IN**

4 **SYRIA.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
6 ings:

7 (1) The transnational Salafi-jihadi organiza-
8 tions Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and al

1 Qaeda are utilizing the conflict in Syria and the ac-
2 tions of the Assad regime to recruit and mobilize
3 fighter and popular support.

4 (2) The crisis in Syria has led to the creation
5 of terrorist safe havens controlled by ISIS and al
6 Qaeda, along with other extremist groups, which
7 have become bases from which to plan, direct, and
8 inspire attacks against the United States and its al-
9 lies and partners.

10 (3) The spread of violence perpetuated by the
11 civil war in Syria and the flow of refugees is a threat
12 to the security of our allies in the Middle East and
13 Europe, placing immense domestic and humani-
14 tarian burdens on Syria's neighbors, most notably
15 Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq.

16 (4) The Syrian conflict has allowed Iran's Is-
17 lamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and its proxies to
18 increase their influence in parts of Syria and poten-
19 tially threaten Israel's borders.

20 (5) The United Nations Security Council reso-
21 lutions 2332 (2016), 2268 (2016), and 2139 (2014)
22 call for the implementation of a cessation of hos-
23 tilities in Syria and reaffirm the international com-
24 munity's support for the immediate, direct, and un-

1 inhibited access of humanitarian workers throughout
2 the Syrian Arab Republic.

3 (6) The United Nations High Commissioner for
4 Refugees estimates that the Syrian conflict has cre-
5 ated over 5,000,000 refugees and 6,300,000 inter-
6 nally displaced persons.

7 (7) Widespread and systematic attacks on civil-
8 ians, schools, hospitals, and other civilian infrastruc-
9 ture, in violation of international humanitarian law,
10 continue in Syria, in particular as result of the ac-
11 tions of the Assad regime and its Russian and Ira-
12 nian supporters.

13 (8) Amnesty International has a documented
14 evidence of mass human rights abuses of detainees
15 at the Assad Regime's Saydnaya Military Prison, in-
16 cluding the summary execution by hanging of an es-
17 timated 5,000 to 13,000 detainees between Sep-
18 tember 2011 and December 2015.

19 (9) The regime of Bashar al-Assad has repeat-
20 edly blocked civilian access to or diverted humani-
21 tarian assistance, including medical supplies, from
22 besieged and hard-to-reach areas, in violation of
23 United Nations Security Council resolutions.

24 (10) The Assad regime is subject to and in vio-
25 lation of both United Nations Security Council Reso-

1 lution 2118 (2013) on the Framework for Elimini-
2 nation of Syrian Chemical Weapons and United Na-
3 tions Security Council Resolution 2209 (2015) Con-
4 demning the Use of Chlorine Gas in Syria.

5 (11) The Governments of the Russian Federa-
6 tion and Iran have supported the Assad regime, per-
7 petuated the conflict, and deployed tactics and strat-
8 egies that have caused grave harm to civilians, in-
9 cluding their conduct in the siege of eastern Aleppo
10 which may constitute war crimes and crimes against
11 humanity.

12 (12) The United States Government has pro-
13 vided nearly \$6,000,000,000 since 2011 in humani-
14 tarian assistance to communities and people directly
15 impacted by the Syrian conflict, including
16 \$364,000,000 that will be provided in fiscal year
17 2017 for refugees and other people displaced by the
18 Syrian conflict.

19 (13) The United States Armed Forces are lead-
20 ing the Global Coalition to Counter ISIS and are de-
21 ployed with Coalition allies within the territory of
22 Syria and are working by, with, and through local
23 Syrian partner forces to defeat ISIS and stabilize
24 territory taken from it.

25 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

1 (1) urges all parties to the conflict in Syria,
2 particularly the Russian Federation, Iran, and Ira-
3 nian-backed militias, to immediately halt indiscrimi-
4 nate attacks, the imposition of starvation sieges, and
5 other forms of warfare directed against civilians and
6 civilian infrastructure;

7 (2) strongly urges all parties to the conflict to
8 respect the safety, security, independence, and im-
9 partiality of humanitarian workers and medical pro-
10 fessionals, ensuring freedom of movement to deliver
11 aid, particularly in areas of Syria controlled by oppo-
12 sition forces;

13 (3) encourages the President to make it the poli-
14 cy of the United States Government to continue to
15 coordinate a comprehensive and generous response
16 to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, including assist-
17 ance and development and protection of human
18 rights inside Syria and in the region;

19 (4) urges all parties in Syria to support the im-
20 mediate and full implementation of United Nations
21 Security Council Resolution 2268 (2016), which
22 calls for a cessation of hostilities in the conflict, ex-
23 cept with respect to ISIS and al Qaeda and their af-
24 filiated organizations, and to facilitate the provision

1 of humanitarian assistance and reconstruction of
2 war-affected communities in Syria;

3 (5) affirms that the elimination of al Qaeda and
4 ISIS safe havens in Syria from which those organi-
5 zations can plan and launch attacks against the
6 United States and its partners is a vital national se-
7 curity interest of the United States;

8 (6) affirms that the stability of key European
9 and Middle Eastern partners is vital to the national
10 security of the United States, and preventing the
11 Syrian conflict from undermining that stability is a
12 top priority for the United States;

13 (7) calls on the international community to con-
14 tinue to support neighboring countries and host
15 communities who are generously supporting refugees
16 and internally displaced persons fleeing the conflict
17 in Syria;

18 (8) calls on the President to continue the active
19 participation of the United States Government in a
20 robust and effective diplomatic process to achieve a
21 political agreement to the Syrian conflict; and

22 (9) urges the President to develop and submit
23 to the Committees on Foreign Relations and Armed
24 Services of the Senate and the Committees on For-
25 eign Affairs and Armed Services of the House of

- 1 Representatives within 90 days a strategy for pro-
- 2 viding long-term stability and security in areas
- 3 seized from ISIS in Syria.