

**AMENDMENT TO THE CHAIRMAN'S MARK**  
**OFFERED BY MRS. BLACKBURN OF TENNESSEE**

Add at the end of the Chairman's Mark the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

1 **SEC. 820. POLICY STATEMENT ON NATIONAL SECURITY**  
2 **FUNDING.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—The House finds the following:

4 (1) Russian aggression, the growing threats of  
5 the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant in the Mid-  
6 dle East, North Korean and Iranian nuclear and  
7 missile programs, and continued Chinese invest-  
8 ments in high-end military capabilities and cyber  
9 warfare shape the parameters of an increasingly  
10 complex and challenging security environment.

11 (2) All four current service chiefs testified that  
12 the National Military Strategy could not be executed  
13 at sequestration levels.

14 (3) The independent and bipartisan National  
15 Defense Panel conducted risk assessments of force  
16 structure changes triggered by the Budget Control  
17 Act of 2011 (BCA) and concluded that in addition  
18 to previous cuts to defense dating back to 2009, the  
19 sequestration of defense discretionary spending has

1 “caused significant shortfalls in U.S. military readi-  
2 ness and both present and future capabilities”.

3 (4) The President’s fiscal year 2016 budget ir-  
4 responsibly ignores current law and requests a de-  
5 fense budget \$38 billion above the caps for rhetor-  
6 ical gain. By creating an expectation of spending  
7 without a plan to avoid the BCA’s guaranteed se-  
8 quester upon breaching of its caps, the White  
9 House’s proposal compounds the fiscal uncertainty  
10 that has affected the military’s ability to adequately  
11 plan for future contingencies and make investments  
12 crucial for the Nation’s defense.

13 (5) The President’s budget proposes \$1.8 tril-  
14 lion in tax increases, in addition to the \$1.7 trillion  
15 in tax hikes the Administration has already imposed.  
16 The President’s tax increases would further burden  
17 economic growth and is not a realistic source for off-  
18 sets to fund defense sequester replacement.

19 (b) POLICY ON FISCAL YEAR 2016 NATIONAL DE-  
20 FENSE FUNDING.—In fiscal year 2015, the House-passed  
21 budget resolution anticipated \$566 billion for national de-  
22 fense in the discretionary base budget for fiscal year 2016.  
23 With no necessary statutory change yet provided by Con-  
24 gress, the BCA statute would require limiting national de-  
25 fense discretionary base funding to \$523 billion in fiscal

1 year 2016. However, in total with \$90 billion, the House  
2 Budget estimate for Overseas Contingency Operations  
3 funding for the Department of Defense, the fiscal year  
4 2016 budget provides over \$613 billion total for defense  
5 spending that is higher than the President's budget re-  
6 quest for the fiscal year. This concurrent resolution pro-  
7 vides \$22 billion above the President's Five Year Defense  
8 Plan and \$151 billion above the 10-year totals. This would  
9 also be \$387 billion above the 10-year total for current  
10 levels.

11 (c) DEFENSE READINESS AND MODERNIZATION  
12 FUND.—(1) The budget resolution recognizes the need to  
13 ensure robust funding for national defense while maintain-  
14 ing overall fiscal discipline. The budget resolution  
15 prioritizes our national defense and the needs of the  
16 warfighter by providing needed dollars through the cre-  
17 ation of the “Defense Readiness and Modernization  
18 Fund”.

19 (2) The Defense Readiness and Modernization Fund  
20 provides the mechanism for Congress to responsibly allo-  
21 cate in a deficit-neutral way the resources the military  
22 needs to secure the safety and liberty of United States  
23 citizens from threats at home and abroad. The Defense  
24 Readiness and Modernization Fund will provide the chair  
25 of the Committee on the Budget of the House the ability

1 to increase allocations to support legislation that would  
2 provide for the Department of Defense warfighting capa-  
3 bilities, modernization, a temporary increase in end  
4 strength, training and maintenance associated with com-  
5 bat readiness, activities to reach full auditability of the  
6 Department of Defense's financial statements, and imple-  
7 mentation of military and compensation reforms.

8 (d) SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT FOR NATIONAL DE-  
9 FENSE.—This concurrent resolution encourages an imme-  
10 diate reevaluation of Federal Government priorities to  
11 maintain the strength of America's national security pos-  
12 ture. In identifying policies to restructure and stabilize the  
13 Government's major entitlement programs which, along  
14 with net interest, will consume all Federal revenue in less  
15 than 20 years. The budget also charts a course that can  
16 ensure the availability of needed national security re-  
17 sources.

