

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To express the sense of Congress regarding the expedited transition of responsibility for military and security operations in Afghanistan to the Government of Afghanistan.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—112th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1867

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2012 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, 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. MERKLEY

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle B of title XII, add the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SEC. 1230. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON TRANSITION OF MILI-**
4 **TARY AND SECURITY OPERATIONS IN AF-**
5 **GHANISTAN.**

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

8 (1) After al Qaeda attacked the United States
9 on September 11, 2001, the United States Govern-

1 ment rightly sought to bring to justice those who at-
2 tacked us, to eliminate al Qaeda's safe havens and
3 training camps in Afghanistan, and to remove the
4 terrorist-allied Taliban government.

5 (2) Members of the Armed Forces, intelligence
6 personnel, and diplomatic corps have skillfully
7 achieved these objectives, culminating in the death of
8 Osama bin Laden.

9 (3) Operation Enduring Freedom is now the
10 longest military operation in United States history.

11 (4) United States national security experts, in-
12 cluding Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta, have
13 noted that al Qaeda's presence in Afghanistan has
14 been greatly diminished.

15 (5) Over the past ten years, the mission of the
16 United States has evolved to include a prolonged na-
17 tion-building effort in Afghanistan, including the
18 creation of a strong central government, a national
19 police force and army, and effective civic institu-
20 tions.

21 (6) Such nation-building efforts in Afghanistan
22 are undermined by corruption, high illiteracy, and a
23 historic aversion to a strong central government in
24 that country.

1 (7) Members of the Armed Forces have served
2 in Afghanistan valiantly and with honor, and many
3 have sacrificed their lives and health in service to
4 their country.

5 (8) The United States is now spending nearly
6 \$10,000,000,000 per month in Afghanistan at a
7 time when, in the United States, there is high unem-
8 ployment, a flood of foreclosures, a record deficit,
9 and a debt that is over \$15,000,000,000,000 and
10 growing.

11 (9) The continued concentration of United
12 States and NATO military forces in one region,
13 when terrorist forces are located in many parts of
14 the world, is not an efficient use of resources.

15 (10) The battle against terrorism is best served
16 by using United States troops and resources in a
17 counterterrorism strategy against terrorist forces
18 wherever they may locate and train.

19 (11) The United States Government will con-
20 tinue to support the development of Afghanistan
21 with a strong diplomatic and counterterrorism pres-
22 ence in the region.

23 (12) President Barack Obama is to be com-
24 mended for announcing in July 2011 that the
25 United States would commence the redeployment of

1 members of the United States Armed Forces from
2 Afghanistan in 2011 and transition security control
3 to the Government of Afghanistan.

4 (13) President Obama has established a goal of
5 removing all United States combat troops from Af-
6 ghanistan by December 2014.

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

9 (1) the President should expedite the transition
10 of the responsibility for military and security oper-
11 ations in Afghanistan to the Government of Afghanis-
12 tan;

13 (2) the President should devise a plan based on
14 inputs from military commanders, the diplomatic
15 missions in the region, and appropriate members of
16 the Cabinet, along with the consultation of Congress,
17 for expediting the drawdown of United States com-
18 bat troops in Afghanistan and accelerating the
19 transfer of security authority to Afghan authorities
20 prior to December 2014; and

21 (3) not later than 90 days after the date of the
22 enactment of this Act, the President should submit
23 to Congress a plan with a timetable and completion
24 date for the accelerated transition of all military and

- 1 security operations in Afghanistan to the Govern-
- 2 ment of Afghanistan.