

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H. RES. 235
OFFERED BY MR. SALMON OF ARIZONA

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas on April 25, 2015, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake and on May 12, 2015, a magnitude 7.3 earthquake struck the country of Nepal;

Whereas according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the first earthquake epicenter was located northwest from the capital, Kathmandu, while the second was east of Kathmandu;

Whereas the reported death toll has reached over 8,000, thousands more people have been reported injured, and critical infrastructure, including roads, hospitals, and homes, has been damaged or destroyed;

Whereas the United Nations estimates that up to 8,000,000 people have been affected by the earthquake, including an estimated 1,400,000 people in need of immediate food assistance;

Whereas the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that nearly 1,700,000 children will require urgent humanitarian assistance and has termed this crisis a "children's emergency";

Whereas the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that the earthquakes have affected an estimated 126,000 pregnant women and UNICEF estimates that approximately 12 infants are being born every hour with-

out basic health care in the areas worst hit by the earthquakes as a result of damage or destruction to 70 percent of birthing centers across the 14 most affected districts of Nepal;

Whereas women and girls are disproportionately impacted by natural disasters, especially with respect to gender-based violence (GBV), and according to United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) data, 40,000 affected women are at risk of sexual and other GBV;

Whereas the United States responded immediately to the disaster and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has deployed a 128-person Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Nepal;

Whereas the United States Department of Defense is providing necessary air-lift assistance to USAID in order to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance to remote villages;

Whereas we honor the sacrifice of six United States Marines (Captain Dustin R. Lukasiewicz, Captain Christopher L. Norgren; Sargent Ward M. Johnson, Sargent Eric M. Seaman, Corporal Sara A. Medina, and Lance Corporal Jacob A. Hug) and two Nepalese soldiers who lost their lives in the course of delivering critical humanitarian assistance;

Whereas the United States has committed nearly \$47,000,000 to date for earthquake response and recovery efforts in Nepal, including search and rescue efforts, emergency shelter, and water, sanitation, and health;

Whereas individuals, businesses, and philanthropic organizations across the United States and throughout the world have responded in support of Nepal; and

Whereas humanitarian access has been severely constrained by the magnitude of destruction, the region's mountainous terrain, and the remoteness of impacted areas: Now, therefore, be it

Strike all after the resolving clause and insert the following:

That the House of Representatives—

1 (1) expresses its deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people of Nepal following the devastating earthquakes on April 25, 2015, and May 12, 2015;

5 (2) supports the efforts of the Administration to coordinate an immediate, effective United States Government humanitarian response and to provide relief to affected communities while safeguarding the vulnerable, including aid specifically targeted at expecting mothers, infants, and children;

11 (3) commends the efforts and honors the sacrifice of the men and women engaged in the response, including the citizens and Government of Nepal, the United States, and international humanitarian and nongovernmental organizations; and

1 (4) urges the Administration, in coordination
2 with the Nepalese Government and other donors, to
3 continue to provide emergency relief and reconstruc-
4 tion efforts in Nepal.

Amend the title so as to read: “A resolution express-
ing deepest condolences to and solidarity with the people
of Nepal following the devastating earthquakes on April
25, 2015, and May 12, 2015.”.

