

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1735
OFFERED BY MS. MCSALLY OF ARIZONA

At the appropriate place in title I, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 1___ . PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR**
2 **RETIREMENT OF A-10 AIRCRAFT.**

3 (a) PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR
4 RETIREMENT.—Except as provided by section 132, none
5 of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or
6 otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Air
7 Force may be obligated or expended to retire, prepare to
8 retire, or place in storage or on backup aircraft inventory
9 status any A-10 aircraft.

10 (b) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON RETIREMENT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by sec-
12 tion 132, and in addition to the limitation in sub-
13 section (a), during the period before December 31,
14 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force may not retire,
15 prepare to retire, or place in storage or on backup
16 flying status any A-10 aircraft.

17 (2) MINIMUM INVENTORY REQUIREMENT.—The
18 Secretary of the Air Force shall ensure the Air

1 Force maintains a minimum of 171 A-10 aircraft
2 designated as primary mission aircraft inventory.

3 (c) PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR
4 SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN MANNING LEVELS.—None
5 of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or
6 otherwise made available for fiscal year 2016 for the Air
7 Force may be obligated or expended to make significant
8 reductions to manning levels with respect to any A-10 air-
9 craft squadrons or divisions.

10 (d) ADDITIONAL LIMITATION ON SIGNIFICANT RE-
11 Ductions IN MANNING LEVELS.—In addition to the lim-
12 itation in subsection (c), during the period before Decem-
13 ber 31, 2016, the Secretary of the Air Force may not
14 make significant reductions to manning levels with respect
15 to any A-10 aircraft squadrons or divisions.

16 (e) STUDY ON REPLACEMENT CAPABILITY REQUIRE-
17 MENTS OR MISSION PLATFORM FOR THE A-10 AIR-
18 CRAFT.—

19 (1) INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the
21 Air Force shall commission an appropriate enti-
22 ty outside the Department of Defense to con-
23 duct an assessment of the required capabilities
24 or mission platform to replace the A-10 air-
25 craft. This assessment would represent pre-

1 paratory work to inform an analysis of alter-
2 natives.

3 (B) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required
4 under subparagraph (A) shall include each of
5 the following:

6 (i) Future needs analysis for the cur-
7 rent A-10 aircraft mission set to include
8 troops-in-contact/close air support, air
9 interdiction, strike control and reconnais-
10 sance, and combat search and rescue sup-
11 port in both contested and uncontested
12 battle environments. At a minimum, the
13 needs analysis should specifically address
14 the following areas:

15 (I) The ability to safely and ef-
16 fectively conduct troops-in-contact/
17 danger close missions or missions in
18 close proximity to civilians in the
19 presence of the air defenses found
20 with enemy ground maneuver units.

21 (II) The ability to effectively tar-
22 get and destroy moving, camouflaged,
23 or dug-in troops, and artillery.

24 (III) The ability to engage, tar-
25 get, and destroy tanks and armored

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1 personnel carriers, including with re-
2 spect to the carrying capacity of
3 armor-piercing weaponry, including
4 mounted cannons and missiles.

5 (IV) The ability to remain within
6 visual range of friendly forces and tar-
7 gets to facilitate responsiveness to
8 ground forces and minimize re-attack
9 times.

10 (V) The ability to safely conduct
11 close air support beneath low cloud
12 ceilings and in reduced visibilities at
13 low airspeeds in the presence of the
14 air defenses found with enemy ground
15 maneuver units.

16 (VI) The ability of the pilot and
17 aircraft to survive direct hits from
18 small arms, machine guns,
19 MANPADs, and lower caliber anti-air-
20 craft artillery organic or attached to
21 enemy ground forces and maneuver
22 units.

23 (VII) The ability to communicate
24 effectively with ground forces and
25 downed pilots, including in commu-

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1 communications jamming or satellite-denied
2 environments.

3 (VIII) The ability to execute the
4 missions described in subclauses (I),
5 (II), (III), and (IV) in a GPS- or sat-
6 ellite-denied environment with or with-
7 out sensors.

8 (IX) The ability to deliver mul-
9 tiple lethal firing passes and sustain
10 long loiter endurance to support
11 friendly forces throughout extended
12 ground engagements.

13 (X) The ability to operate from
14 unprepared dirt, grass, and narrow
15 road runways and to generate high
16 sortie rates under these austere condi-
17 tions.

18 (ii) Identification and assessment of
19 gaps in the ability of existing and pro-
20 grammed mission platforms in providing
21 required capabilities to conduct missions
22 specified in clause (i) in both contested and
23 uncontested battle environments.

24 (iii) Assessment of operational effec-
25 tiveness of existing and programmed mis-

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1 sion platforms to conduct missions speci-
2 fied in clause (i) in both contested and
3 uncontested battle environments.

4 (iv) Assessment of probability of like-
5 lihood of conducting missions requiring
6 troops-in-contact/close air support oper-
7 ations specified in clause (i) in contested
8 environments as compared to uncontested
9 environments.

10 (v) Any other matters the independent
11 entity or the Secretary of the Air Force de-
12 termines to be appropriate.

13 (2) REPORT.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than Sep-
15 tember 30, 2016, the Secretary of the Air
16 Force shall submit to the congressional defense
17 committees a report that includes the assess-
18 ment required under paragraph (1).

19 (B) FORM.—The report required under
20 subparagraph (A) may be submitted in classi-
21 fied form, but shall also contain an unclassified
22 executive summary and may contain an unclas-
23 sified annex.

24 (3) NONDUPLICATION OF EFFORT.—If any in-
25 formation required under paragraph (1) has been in-

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1 cluded in another report or notification previously
2 submitted to Congress by law, the Secretary of the
3 Air Force may provide a list of such reports and no-
4 tifications at the time of submitting the report re-
5 quired under paragraph (2) in lieu of including such
6 information in the report required under paragraph
7 (2).

