

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Lee, Van Hollen, Yarmuth, McDermott, Pocan, and Moulton

Preventing Further Abuse of the Overseas Contingency Operations Designation

1. At the end of Title III, add the following:

“Providing Additional Oversight to Prevent Abuse of the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) Designation

(a) Whereas. —

- (1) abuse of the OCO/GWOT cap adjustment is a backdoor loophole that undermines the integrity of the budget process, and any serious effort to reform the budget process should make ending this abuse a top priority;
- (2) the Budget Committee will exercise its oversight responsibilities with respect to the use of the OCO/GWOT designation in the FY 2017 budget process; and
- (3) the Budget Committee will oppose increases above the levels established in the Bipartisan Budget Agreement of 2015 for the purpose of circumventing budget caps;

(b) if any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report makes appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for overseas contingency operations and such amounts are so designated pursuant to this paragraph, then the Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget may adjust the allocation to the House Committee on Appropriations by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose up to, but not to exceed, the amounts of budget authority for overseas contingency operations specified in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 for budget function 050 and budget function 150.”

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution makes ending the abuse of the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) designation a top priority for budget process reform. It is widely recognized that the OCO designation has been abused to get around the funding caps and that this practice should end. If discretionary caps are too low and additional funding is needed to address the country's priorities, Congress should raise the caps by amending the Budget Control Act, rather than through using backdoor loopholes that undermine the integrity of the budget process.