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**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5658, AS REPORTED  
OFFERED BY MR. McDERMOTT OF WASHINGTON**

At the end of subtitle C of title XII of the bill, add  
the following new section:

1 **SEC. 12xx. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON OPEN COMMUNICA-**  
2 **TION AND RESPONSIBLE DIPLOMACY WITH**  
3 **CERTAIN KEY STATE ACTORS IN ORDER TO**  
4 **REDUCE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL TENSIONS.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Presidents of the United States throughout  
7 our history have communicated and negotiated with  
8 adversarial nations.

9 (2) President John F. Kennedy said, “Let us  
10 never negotiate out of fear, but let us never fear to  
11 negotiate.”, and exemplified this by negotiating with  
12 Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, even at the  
13 height of the Cuban Missile Crisis, and later met  
14 with Premier Khrushchev in person.

15 (3) President Ronald W. Reagan negotiated  
16 with the Soviet Union about arms control and met  
17 with Mikhail Gorbachev during the Cold War.

18 (4) The Administration of George W. Bush has  
19 at different times negotiated with North Korea on

1 its nuclear weapons program, with Libyan Leader  
2 Moammar Gaddafi on terrorism and renewing diplo-  
3 matic relations, and with Iran on the situations in  
4 Afghanistan and Iraq.

5 (5) Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Sec-  
6 retary of State Condoleezza Rice have both publicly  
7 favored negotiations with Iran and Ambassador  
8 Ryan Crocker has been meeting with the Iranians on  
9 stabilizing the situation in Iraq.

10 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the  
11 Congress that—

12 (1) the sacrifice made by members of the  
13 United States Armed forces and their families is  
14 among the noblest endeavors for which a nation  
15 could ask, and their current efforts in Iraq, Afghani-  
16 stan, and elsewhere is something for which they  
17 should feel proud;

18 (2) the decision to send troops into combat is  
19 the most serious decision a nation can make, given  
20 the human toll that can result with such a decision  
21 and the foreign policy impact that will reverberate  
22 and endure; and

23 (3) the United States should seek open commu-  
24 nication and responsible diplomacy with key state  
25 actors, such as Iran, in order to reduce regional and

1 global tensions and ensure that the decision to send  
2 troops into combat is one always chosen only as a  
3 last resort, after exhausting all diplomatic opportu-  
4 nities.

