

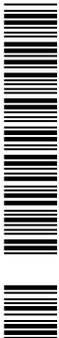
**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4546, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MRS. JO ANN DAVIS OF VIRGINIA**

At the end of title X (page 218, after line 15), insert
the following new section:

1 **SEC. ____.** **SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING AIRCRAFT**
2 **CARRIER FORCE STRUCTURE.**

3 (a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

5 (1) The aircraft carrier has been an integral
6 component in Operation Enduring Freedom and in
7 the homeland defense mission beginning on Sep-
8 tember 11, 2001. The aircraft carriers that have
9 participated in Operation Enduring Freedom, as of
10 May 1, 2002, are the USS Enterprise (CVN-65),
11 the USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70), the USS Kitty
12 Hawk (CV-63), the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN-
13 71), the USS John C. Stennis (CVN-74), and the
14 USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67). The aircraft car-
15 riers that have participated in the homeland defense
16 mission are the USS George Washington (CVN-73),
17 the USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67), and the USS
18 John C. Stennis (CVN-74).



1 (2) Since 1945, the United States has built 172
2 bases overseas, of which only 24 are currently in
3 use.

4 (3) The aircraft carrier provides an independent
5 base of operations should no land base be available
6 for aircraft.

7 (4) The aircraft carrier is an essential compo-
8 nent of the Navy.

9 (5) Both the F/A-18E/F aircraft program and
10 the Joint Strike Fighter aircraft program are pro-
11 ceeding on schedule for deployment on aircraft car-
12 riers.

13 (6) As established by the Navy, the United
14 States requires the service of 15 aircraft carriers to
15 completely fulfill all the naval commitments assigned
16 to it without gapping carrier presence.

17 (7) The Navy requires, at a minimum, at least
18 12 carriers to accomplish its current missions.

19 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that the number of aircraft carriers of the Navy in
21 active service should not be less than 12.

22 (c) COMMENDATION OF CREWS.—Congress hereby
23 commends the crews of the aircraft carriers that have par-
24 ticipated in Operation Enduring Freedom and the home-
25 land defense mission.

