SEC. 1216. ASSISTANCE TO THE SYRIAN OPPOSITION.

(a) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Defense is authorized, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to provide assistance, including the provision of defense articles and defense services, to appropriately vetted elements of the Syrian opposition and other appropriately vetted foreign groups or individuals for the following purposes:

(1) Defending the Syrian people from attacks by the Syrian regime, facilitating the provision of essential services, and stabilizing territory controlled by the opposition.

(2) Defending the United States, its friends and allies, and the Syrian people from the threats posed by terrorists in Syria.

(3) Promoting the conditions for a negotiated settlement to end the conflict in Syria.

(b) CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary of Defense may accept contributions from foreign governments to provide assistance under this section. Any funds so accepted by the Secretary may be credited to the account from which funds are made available for the provision of such assistance and may be used for such purpose until expended. Any amounts provided pursuant to this subsection are designated by the Congress for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, and such amounts shall be available only if the President designates such amounts for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism pursuant to such section 251(b)(2)(A).

(c) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—Authority to provide assistance under this section shall terminate on December 31, 2018.