AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4909
OFFERED BY MR. YOHO OF FLORIDA

Page 520, after line 9, insert the following:

SEC. ___ USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SYRIA.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) as a result of over five years of civil war in
the Syrian Arab Republic, Syrian deaths have
climbed to more than 250,000 deaths, and more
than 6,000,000 Syrians have been displaced;

(2) The United Nations Mission to Investigate
Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the
Syrian Arab Republic released its report on Sep-
tember 16, 2013, confirming that surface-to-surface
rockets containing the nerve agent Sarin were used
in the Ghouta area of Damascus on August 21,
2013, an attack which killed over 1,400 people ac-
cording to a United States Government assessment;

(3) the Organization for the Prohibition of
Chemical Weapons (hereafter in this section referred
to as “OPCW”) Executive Council adopted a deci-
sion on September 27, 2013, which required Syria to
destroy its chemical weapons program by June 30, 2014;

(4) a White House statement on August 18, 2014, marking the end of chemical weapons destruction operations on the MV Cape Ray said that “serious questions remain with respect to the omissions and discrepancies in Syria’s declaration to the OPCW and about continued allegations of use”;

(5) chlorine gas attacks in northern Syria have been repeatedly reported since mid-April 2014;

(6) although chlorine is not required to be declared or destroyed under the Chemical Weapons Convention, its use in warfare is still prohibited under the Convention;

(7) the OPCW established a Fact-Finding Mission to investigate allegations of the use of weaponized chlorine;

(8) in the OPCW’s second report released on September 10, 2014, the investigators concluded they have “compelling confirmation” that a toxic chemical was used “systematically and repeatedly” as a weapon against villages in northern Syria and that “chlorine, either pure or in mixture” was used in attacks on the villages of Talmanes, Al Tamanah, and Kafr Zeta;
(9) on March 6, 2015, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2209 (2015), condemning the use of chlorine gas as a weapon in Syria and that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons including chlorine must be held accountable;

(10) in a June 16, 2015, hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Samantha Power, testified that there are alarming and grave reports that the Assad regime has been turning chlorine into a chemical weapon;

(11) Secretary of State John Kerry stated on June 16, 2015, that he was “absolutely certain” that the Assad regime has used chlorine against his people;

(12) despite the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2209, the Assad regime has continued its chlorine attacks;

(13) chemical weapons, including chlorine, are but one of the many heinous and violent methods with which the Assad regime kills its own citizens;

(14) barrel bombs dropped from helicopters are the primary method of delivery for the Assad regime’s chemical weapons; and
(15) the Assad regime’s control over Syrian airspace facilitates his regime’s use of chlorine gas against his citizens.

(b) CONGRESSIONAL STATEMENTS.—

(1) The Congress condemns the Assad regime for its atrocities against the Syrian people, including its use of chlorine as a weapon.

(2) The Congress condemns the use of any toxic chemical, including chlorine, as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic.

(3) It is the sense of Congress that those who have engaged in such unlawful actions should be held accountable by the international community and the Congress urges the President to report to Congress on the use of chemical weapons, including chlorine, in Syria.

(4) It is the sense of Congress that no party in Syria should use, develop, produce, acquire, stockpile, retain, or transfer chemical weapons, including weapons employing chlorine.

(5) It is the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should continue offering material support to appropriate programs and individuals collecting evidence of the use of chemical weapons inside of Syria.
(6) It is the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should assist in the cataloguing and preservation of evidence of use and responsibility of use of chemical weapons.

(7) It is the sense of Congress that the President of the United States should facilitate the future transfer of evidence of the use of chemical weapons to an appropriate legal forum for use in prosecuting those responsible for the illegal use of chemical weapons.