AMENDMENT
TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–11
OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS OF ARIZONA

Add at the end of title II, the following new section:

SEC. ___. FINDINGS; SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) In February 2019, the total public debt outstanding was more than $22,000,000,000,000, resulting in a total interest expense of more than $192,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019.

(2) On December 21, 2018, the total public debt as a percentage of gross domestic product was 104 percent.

(3) In fiscal year 2018, Federal tax receipts totaled $3,329,000,000,000, but Federal outlays totaled $4,108,000,000,000, leaving the Federal Government with a 1-year deficit of $779,000,000,000.

(4) Every year since the last balanced Federal budget was signed in 1997, Congress has failed to maintain a fiscally responsible budget and has typically relied on raising the debt ceiling.
(5) The House of Representatives failed to pass a balanced budget for fiscal year 2019 and failed to restore regular order to the legislative process by not allowing Representatives to offer and debate amendments.

(6) Regular order permits the House of Representatives to separately debate and adopt all appropriations bills in a timely fashion and facilitates congressional oversight of Federal spending.

(7) The Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2026.

(8) The Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2034.

(9) The credit rating of the United States was reduced by Standard and Poor’s from AAA to AA+ on August 5, 2011, and has remained at that level since that date.

(10) Without a targeted effort to balance the Federal budget, the credit rating of the United States is certain to continue to fall.
(11) The National Security Strategy issued by President Donald Trump highlights the need to reduce the national debt through fiscal responsibility.

(12) On April 12, 2018, former Secretary of Defense James Mattis warned that “any Nation that can’t keep its fiscal house in order eventually cannot maintain its military power”.

(13) On March 6, 2018, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats warned: “Our continued plunge into debt is unsustainable and represents a dire future threat to our economy and to our national security”.

(14) On November 15, 2017, former Secretaries of Defense Leon Panetta, Ash Carter, and Chuck Hagel warned: “Increase in the debt will, in the absence of a comprehensive budget that addresses both entitlements and revenues, force even deeper reductions in our national security capabilities”.

(15) On September 22, 2011, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen warned: “I believe the single, biggest threat to our national security is debt”.

(b) SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—
(1) recognizes that the national debt is a threat to the national security of the United States;
(2) realizes that deficits are unsustainable, irresponsible, and dangerous;
(3) commits to restoring regular order in the appropriations process; and
(4) commits to addressing the fiscal crisis faced by the United States.