

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

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

1 **SEC. ____.** **FINDINGS; SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REP-**
2 **RESENTATIVES.**

3 (a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) In February 2019, the total public debt out-
5 standing was more than \$22,000,000,000,000, re-
6 sulting in a total interest expense of more than
7 \$192,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2019.

8 (2) On December 21, 2018, the total public
9 debt as a percentage of gross domestic product was
10 104 percent.

11 (3) In fiscal year 2018, Federal tax receipts to-
12 taled \$3,329,000,000,000, but Federal outlays to-
13 taled \$4,108,000,000,000, leaving the Federal Gov-
14 ernment with a 1-year deficit of \$779,000,000,000.

15 (4) Every year since the last balanced Federal
16 budget was signed in 1997, Congress has failed to
17 maintain a fiscally responsible budget and has typi-
18 cally relied on raising the debt ceiling.

1 (5) The House of Representatives failed to pass
2 a balanced budget for fiscal year 2019 and failed to
3 restore regular order to the legislative process by not
4 allowing Representatives to offer and debate amend-
5 ments.

6 (6) Regular order permits the House of Rep-
7 resentatives to separately debate and adopt all ap-
8 propriations bills in a timely fashion and facilitates
9 congressional oversight of Federal spending.

10 (7) The Social Security and Medicare Boards of
11 Trustees project that the Federal Hospital Insur-
12 ance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2026.

13 (8) The Social Security and Medicare Boards of
14 Trustees project that the Federal Old-Age and Sur-
15 vivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Dis-
16 ability Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in
17 2034.

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

22 (10) Without a targeted effort to balance the
23 Federal budget, the credit rating of the United
24 States is certain to continue to fall.

1 (11) The National Security Strategy issued by
2 President Donald Trump highlights the need to re-
3 duce the national debt through fiscal responsibility.

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

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

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

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

23 (b) SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—
24 The House of Representatives—

1 (1) recognizes that the national debt is a threat
2 to the national security of the United States;

3 (2) realizes that deficits are unsustainable, irre-
4 sponsible, and dangerous;

5 (3) commits to restoring regular order in the
6 appropriations process; and

7 (4) commits to addressing the fiscal crisis faced
8 by the United States.

