

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 115-23
OFFERED BY MR. DOGGETT OF TEXAS

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

1 **SEC. 12 ____ . ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHANNEL OF COMMU-**
2 **NICATION WITH IRAN.**

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

4 (1) Iranian and Iranian-backed forces in Iraq
5 and Syria are fighting parallel to the United States
6 and United States-backed forces in the campaign
7 against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS),
8 which has targeted and killed both American and
9 Iranian citizens in terrorist attacks.

10 (2) On January 12th, 2016, American sailors
11 entered Iranian waters and were taken into Iranian
12 custody while their ships were seized, but were re-
13 leased from custody within just 24 hours as a result
14 of direct conversations between then-Secretary of
15 State John Kerry and the Iranian Foreign Minister
16 Mohammad Zarif.

17 (3) Six months later, on July 12, 2016, a bipar-
18 tisan group of more than 75 former military officers,
19 former diplomats, and other security experts of the

1 United States sent a letter to the President advising
2 that the United States Government establish “[a]n
3 emergency communications capability with Iran’s
4 government to avoid misunderstandings or the esca-
5 lation of incidents or accidents” and “[a] direct dip-
6 lomatic channel at the deputy level to continue the
7 communications currently being conducted between
8 the Secretary of State and Iranian Foreign Min-
9 ister”, arguing that “[w]ithout such continuity dur-
10 ing the transition period, the next Administration
11 will lack the diplomatic means to enlist or pressure
12 Iran in the management of important and urgent
13 issues such as ISIS, Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan
14 where the U.S. and Iran have some common but
15 often clashing interests”.

16 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
17 gress that—

18 (1) it would the benefit United States security
19 interests and the safety of United States citizens
20 overseas to establish a high-level channel of commu-
21 nication with Iran to avoid misunderstandings or the
22 escalation of incidents or accidents, and to ensure
23 quick contact with Iran in the management of im-
24 portant and urgent issues such as the fight against
25 ISIS; and

1 (2) the establishment of a channel of commu-
2 nications with Iran does not impart and is not
3 meant to impart approval or acceptance of any as-
4 pect of Iranian government conduct, policy or rhet-
5 oric.

6 (c) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall seek to
7 establish an official, direct channel of communication at
8 the deputy cabinet level between the United States and
9 Iran, to allow for quick, high-level communication on mat-
10 ters that arise that involve essential United States inter-
11 ests or the safety and security of United States citizens
12 overseas.

