AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 114-14
OFFERED BY MR. ENGEL OF NEW YORK AND MR. ROYCE OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XII (page 570, after line 23), add the following:

SEC. 12xx. REPORT TO ASSESS THE POTENTIAL EFFECTIVENESS OF AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SAFE ZONES OR A NO-FLY ZONE IN SYRIA.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) March 2015 marked the fourth year of the crisis in Syria, which has resulted in the world’s largest ongoing humanitarian disaster.

(2) Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and supporting militias, including Hezbollah, continue to carry out sectarian mass atrocities, which have included mass targeted killings, mass graves, the extermination of entire families, including their children, incidents of ethnic cleansing, sexual violence, widespread torture, aerial bombardment of residential areas, and forced displacement of certain Syrian civilians especially from areas in western Syria.
where Assad is attempting to increase the dominance of his own loyalists.

(3) Approximately 220,000 people have been killed, including thousands of children, many more have been seriously wounded, and civilian casualties continue to mount as widespread and systematic attacks on schools, hospitals, and other civilian facilities persist in violation of international norms and principles.

(4) Assad’s forces and supporting militias have used air power to target Syrian civilians, including the deployment of barrel bombs filled with explosives, shrapnel, and chemical weapons.

(5) Assad’s forces, supporting militias, and other parties to the conflict are systematically blocking humanitarian aid delivery, including food and medical care, from many civilian areas in violation of international norms and principles.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the specified congressional committees a report that—
(A) assesses the potential effectiveness, risks, and operational requirements of the establishment and maintenance of a no-fly zone over part or all of Syria, including—

(i) the operational and legal requirements for United States and coalition air power to establish a no-fly zone in Syria;

(ii) the impact a no-fly zone in Syria would have on humanitarian and counter-terrorism efforts in Syria and the surrounding region;

(iii) the potential for force contributions from other countries to establish a no-fly zone in Syria; and

(iv) the impact of the establishment of a no-fly zone in Syria on the recipients of training provided by section 1209 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3541); and

(B) assesses the potential effectiveness, risks, and operational requirements for the establishment of one or more safe zones in Syria for internally displaced people or for the facilitation of humanitarian assistance, including—
(i) the operational and legal requirements for United States and coalition forces to establish one or more safe zones in Syria;

(ii) the impact one or more safe zones in Syria would have on humanitarian and counterterrorism efforts in Syria and the surrounding region;

(iii) the potential for contributions from other countries and vetted non-state actor partners to establish and maintain one or more safe zones in Syria; and

(iv) the impact of the establishment of one or more safe zones in Syria on the recipients of training provided by section 1209 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113–291; 128 Stat. 3541).

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex if necessary.

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “specified congressional committees” means—

(A) the congressional defense committees; and
(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.