

**AMENDMENT TO**  
**RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119–8**  
**OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN OF PENNSYLVANIA**

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 17\_\_\_\_. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTELLIGENCE**  
2 **BRIEFINGS.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that—

4 (1) Congress as the legislative branch has a  
5 constitutional duty to provide robust oversight of all  
6 national security and intelligence operations, includ-  
7 ing covert special operations, to ensure adherence to  
8 legal, ethical, and strategic standards;

9 (2) the President and relevant executive agen-  
10 cies should promptly notify and brief, in a timely  
11 manner, the Committees on Armed Services of the  
12 House of Representatives and the Senate and the  
13 Permanent Select Committee On Intelligence of the  
14 House of Representatives and the Select Committee  
15 on Intelligence of the Senate regarding—

16 (A) all significant covert actions, special  
17 operations, or missions that involve the use of

1 United States Armed Forces or intelligence as-  
2 sets; and

3 (B) all post-operation facts, findings, and  
4 outcomes, especially in cases involving unin-  
5 tended casualties, operational failure, or inter-  
6 national diplomatic implications;

7 (3) full, unredacted, and candid briefings, sub-  
8 ject to classification protections, ensure that Con-  
9 gress can exercise its constitutional duty of over-  
10 sight, including budgetary, legislative, and enforce-  
11 ment authority, determine potential violations of do-  
12 mestic or international law, and preserve public trust  
13 in national security institutions and democratic gov-  
14 ernance;

15 (4) any intentional withholding or failure to  
16 brief Congress on such matters undermines demo-  
17 cratic accountability, national security legitimacy,  
18 and may violate statutory or constitutional obliga-  
19 tions;

20 (5) all executive agencies carrying out covert or  
21 high-risk operations should establish protocols to—

22 (A) identify which operations require  
23 prompt congressional briefings, ideally before  
24 the operation when feasible or immediately  
25 thereafter; and

1 (B) deliver comprehensive briefings to au-  
2 thorized Members and staff of such committees;

3 (6) the Director of National Intelligence and  
4 the Secretary of Defense should jointly certify annu-  
5 ally that—

6 (A) all reportable operations have been  
7 briefed to Congress in accordance with these  
8 guidelines; and

9 (B) any deviation from this requirement is  
10 documented, explained, and addressed through  
11 corrective action; and

12 (7) such committees should review and, if nec-  
13 essary, recommend enhancements to classification  
14 policies to facilitate essential oversight while safe-  
15 guarding legitimate national security.

