AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117–54
OFFERED BY MR. GAETZ OF FLORIDA

At the end of subtitle E of title XVI, add the following:

SEC. 16. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE LLOYD AUSTIN’S ASSESSMENT OF UNITED STATES HYPERSONIC CAPABILITIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) On March 1, 2022, the Commander, United States Northern Command, General Glen VanHerck testified to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives that China was “aggressively pursuing hypersonic capability tenfold to what we have done, as far as testing within the last year or so, significantly outpacing us with their capabilities”.

(2) On April 27, 2022, Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall testified to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives that China, “moved to deploy hypersonic weapons more aggressively than the United States has, definitely.
They have fielded more capability than we have. And they have fairly aggressive development programs in a number of areas.”. Secretary Kendall concluded that China “invested more and they are more capable”.

(3) On May 12, 2022, the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, Adam Smith, during the Army fiscal year 2023 budget hearing stated “On hypersonics, I think it is really important to point out, we are behind the Chinese and the Russians right now, because they have deployed them.”.

(4) On April 5, 2022, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, during testimony to the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, questioned the committee’s assessment on the United States being behind China and Russia in hypersonics asking “What do you mean we are behind on hypersonics? How do you make that assessment?”. Secretary Austin’s testimony directly contradicts the assessment of his own Department’s subject matter experts who provided a brief to Members of Congress on March 18, 2022, the testimony of the Secretary of the Air Force, the testimony of the Commander of United States Northern Com-
mand, and the assessment of the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

(b) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin misled the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives, Congress, and the American people on the hypersonic capabilities of the United States.