

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:

1 **SEC. 16___. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SECRETARY**
2 **OF DEFENSE LLOYD AUSTIN'S ASSESSMENT**
3 **OF UNITED STATES HYPERSONIC CAPABILI-**
4 **TIES.**

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

6 (1) On March 1, 2022, the Commander, United
7 States Northern Command, General Glen VanHerck
8 testified to the Committee on Armed Services of the
9 House of Representatives that China was “aggres-
10 sively pursuing hypersonic capability tenfold to what
11 we have done, as far as testing within the last year
12 or so, significantly outpacing us with their capabili-
13 ties”.

14 (2) On April 27, 2022, Secretary of the Air
15 Force Frank Kendall testified to the Committee on
16 Armed Services of the House of Representatives that
17 China, “moved to deploy hypersonic weapons more
18 aggressively than the United States has, definitely.

1 They have fielded more capability than we have. And
2 they have fairly aggressive development programs in
3 a number of areas.”. Secretary Kendall concluded
4 that China “invested more and they are more capa-
5 ble”.

6 (3) On May 12, 2022, the Chairman of the
7 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
8 resentatives, Adam Smith, during the Army fiscal
9 year 2023 budget hearing stated “On hypersonics, I
10 think it is really important to point out, we are be-
11 hind the Chinese and the Russians right now, be-
12 cause they have deployed them.”.

13 (4) On April 5, 2022, Secretary of Defense
14 Lloyd Austin, during testimony to the Committee on
15 Armed Services of the House of Representatives,
16 questioned the committee’s assessment on the
17 United States being behind China and Russia in
18 hypersonics asking “What do you mean we are be-
19 hind on hypersonics? How do you make that assess-
20 ment?”. Secretary Austin’s testimony directly con-
21 tradicts the assessment of his own Department’s
22 subject matter experts who provided a brief to Mem-
23 bers of Congress on March 18, 2022, the testimony
24 of the Secretary of the Air Force, the testimony of
25 the Commander of United States Northern Com-

1 mand, and the assessment of the Chairman of the
2 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives.

4 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin misled the
6 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Represent-
7 atives, Congress, and the American people on the
8 hypersonic capabilities of the United States.

