AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 117–31
OFFERED BY MR. MAST OF FLORIDA

Insert after section 30134 the following:

SEC. 30135. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO WITHHOLDING PAYMENTS ON DEBTS OWED TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN AMOUNTS EQUAL TO THE PUBLIC COSTS INCURRED BY SUCH COUNTRIES AS A RESULT OF THE HANDLING OF COVID–19 BY THE PRC.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The first reported case of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (commonly referred to as “COVID–19”) was reported as early as November 17, 2019.

(2) The first human-to-human transmission of the disease was recorded by doctors in Wuhan, China, on December 8, 2019.


(4) Chinese social media censors curbed alerts of the outbreak to the public, including by blocking a comprehensive list of coronavirus-related terms from online discussion.
(5) Dr. Li Wenliang, a physician at Wuhan Central hospital who warned his colleagues of the possible outbreak of COVID–19 in December 2019, was summoned and admonished by Wuhan police for “making false comments on the Internet”, and later died of the virus.

(6) On January 3, 2020, China’s National Health Commission (NHC) ordered institutions “not to publish any information related to the unknown disease” and ordered labs to “transfer any samples they had to designated testing institutions or to destroy them”.

(7) The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Robert Redfield, was not notified by his Chinese colleagues of COVID–19 until January 3, 2020, 47 days after the first reported case of the virus.

(8) Nearly six weeks after doctors in Wuhan raised the possibility of human-to-human transmission of the virus, Chinese officials continued to deny any recorded cases of such transmissions.

(9) Chinese authorities did not begin taking steps toward locking down the city of Wuhan until January 23, 2020, over two months after the first reported case of COVID–19.
(10) Critics of China’s slow response to the outbreak, including Chinese businessman Ren Zhiqiang, were reported to have disappeared.

(11) The Chinese Communist Party actively engaged in a cover-up designed to obfuscate data and hide relevant public health information, and these actions continue to limit efforts to identify the original source of COVID–19.

(b) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the global outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (commonly referred to as “COVID–19”) is a direct result of the People’s Republic of China’s long and appalling record of human rights abuses, including its suppression of the freedom of expression, as well as its aggressive domestic and global propaganda campaign;

(2) the People’s Republic of China should be held accountable for its handling of the COVID–19; and

(3) the United States and other countries should permanently withhold payments on debts owed to the People’s Republic of China in amounts
equal to the public costs incurred by such countries relating to COVID–19.