

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

Insert after section 30134 the following:

1 **SEC. 30135. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO WITH-**  
2 **HOLDING PAYMENTS ON DEBTS OWED TO**  
3 **THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN**  
4 **AMOUNTS EQUAL TO THE PUBLIC COSTS IN-**  
5 **CURRED BY SUCH COUNTRIES AS A RESULT**  
6 **OF THE HANDLING OF COVID-19 BY THE PRC.**

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

8 (1) The first reported case of Coronavirus Dis-  
9 ease 2019 (commonly referred to as “COVID-19”)  
10 was reported as early as November 17, 2019.

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

14 (3) The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission  
15 did not inform the World Health Organization  
16 (WHO) of the outbreak until December 31, 2019.

17 (4) Chinese social media censors curbed alerts  
18 of the outbreak to the public, including by blocking  
19 a comprehensive list of coronavirus-related terms  
20 from online discussion.

1           (5) Dr. Li Wenliang, a physician at Wuhan  
2           Central hospital who warned his colleagues of the  
3           possible outbreak of COVID–19 in December 2019,  
4           was summoned and admonished by Wuhan police for  
5           “making false comments on the Internet”, and later  
6           died of the virus.

7           (6) On January 3, 2020, China’s National  
8           Health Commission (NHC) ordered institutions “not  
9           to publish any information related to the unknown  
10          disease” and ordered labs to “transfer any samples  
11          they had to designated testing institutions or to de-  
12          stroy them”.

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

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

22          (9) Chinese authorities did not begin taking  
23          steps toward locking down the city of Wuhan until  
24          January 23, 2020, over two months after the first  
25          reported case of COVID–19.

1           (10) Critics of China’s slow response to the out-  
2           break, including Chinese businessman Ren Zhiqiang,  
3           were reported to have disappeared.

4           (11) The Chinese Communist Party actively en-  
5           gaged in a cover-up designed to obfuscate data and  
6           hide relevant public health information, and these  
7           actions continue to limit efforts to identify the origi-  
8           nal source of COVID–19.

9           (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
10          gress that—

11           (1) the global outbreak of Coronavirus Disease  
12          2019 (commonly referred to as “COVID–19”) is a  
13          direct result of the People’s Republic of China’s long  
14          and appalling record of human rights abuses, includ-  
15          ing its suppression of the freedom of expression, as  
16          well as its aggressive domestic and global propa-  
17          ganda campaign;

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

21           (3) the United States and other countries  
22          should permanently withhold payments on debts  
23          owed to the People’s Republic of China in amounts

- 1 equal to the public costs incurred by such countries
- 2 relating to COVID-19.

