

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE
PRINT 116-19
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of subtitle C of title VII of the bill, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 7____. NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT TICK-**
2 **BORNE DISEASES.**

3 (a) NATIONAL STRATEGY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
6 President, acting through the Secretary of Defense
7 and the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
8 shall develop and submit to Congress a national
9 strategy to address the escalating burden of Lyme
10 disease and other tick-borne diseases infecting mem-
11 bers of the Armed Forces and civilians across the
12 United States.

13 (2) ELEMENTS.—The national strategy under
14 paragraph (1) shall consist of the following:

15 (A) An initial assessment of the prevalence
16 of Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, the
17 progress of the United States in combatting the
18 diseases, challenges impeding progress, and rec-

1 ommendations for improvement and implemen-
2 tation of priority actions based on the assess-
3 ment.

4 (B) A annual report that includes—

5 (i) an evaluation of all Federally-fund-
6 ed efforts at the Department of Defense
7 and the Department of Health and Human
8 Services and other Federal agencies re-
9 garding Lyme disease and vector borne
10 disease research; an evaluation of all feder-
11 ally funded programs based on program
12 performance, mission, and purpose;

13 (ii) recommendations for priority ac-
14 tions to improve the prevention, diagnosis,
15 treatment, and care for those with the dis-
16 eases; and

17 (iii) any recommendations for ex-
18 panded analysis, review and action.

19 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
21 Human Services is authorized to establish within the
22 Department of Health and Human Services an office
23 to be known as the National Strategy to Combat
24 Tick-Borne Diseases Office (in this section referred
25 to as the “Office”), which shall be headed by a Di-

1 rector to be appointed by the Secretary (in consulta-
2 tion with the Secretary of Defense).

3 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTOR.—The Di-
4 rector of the Office shall—

5 (A) oversee the creation and development
6 of the national strategy under subsection (a);

7 (B) oversee the annual report under sub-
8 section (a)(2)(B) and an annual update of the
9 national strategy;

10 (C) assist the Secretary of Health and
11 Human Services and the Secretary of Defense
12 in carrying out the responsibilities under the
13 national strategy to combat tick-borne diseases
14 in both the military and general populations;
15 and

16 (D) consult with the Tick-Borne Disease
17 Working Group, the agencies and offices of the
18 Department of Health and Human Services, the
19 Department of Defense, and other Federal
20 agencies, as appropriate in order to carry out
21 the national strategy and the responsibilities of
22 the Director.

23 (3) STAFF.—The agencies working with the of-
24 fice are authorized to provide staff to the Office on
25 a nonreimbursable basis.

1 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The President, acting
2 through the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of
3 Health and Human Services, shall have the following re-
4 sponsibilities under this section:

5 (1) To develop the national strategy under sub-
6 section (a) through the Office.

7 (2) To ensure that national strategy gives pri-
8 ority to diseases that impact members of the Armed
9 Forces and the civilian population of the United
10 States, as determined by measuring the prevalence,
11 incidence, morbidity, mortality, extent of disability,
12 and financial cost of the disease.

13 (3) To ensure coordination of Lyme disease and
14 other tick-borne diseases programs and activities
15 across the appropriate agencies and offices of the
16 Department of Health and Human Services and the
17 Department of Defense.

18 (4) To advance the development of research, re-
19 porting, diagnostic tests, and treatments that would
20 help those infected with Lyme disease or other tick-
21 borne diseases and help to prevent future cases of
22 such diseases.

23 (5) To certify that individuals with chronic
24 Lyme disease are included in clinical, research, and
25 service efforts.

1 (6) To ensure solicitation and appropriate inte-
2 gration into the national strategy and agency activi-
3 ties of the perspectives and experiences of patients,
4 and advocates, and treating physicians.

5 (7) To coordinate with other appropriate Fed-
6 eral agencies and international bodies to integrate
7 and inform the fight against Lyme disease and tick-
8 borne disease globally.

