

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 117-54
OFFERED BY MR. ROY OF TEXAS

At the end of title LVIII, add the following:

1 **SEC. 58_. STUDY OF SISTER CITY PARTNERSHIPS OPER-**
2 **ATING WITHIN THE UNITED STATES INVOLV-**
3 **ING FOREIGN COMMUNITIES IN COUNTRIES**
4 **WITH SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC SECTOR CORRUP-**
5 **TION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
7 United States shall conduct a study of the activities of
8 sister city partnerships involving foreign communities in
9 countries receiving a score of 45 or less on Transparency
10 International’s 2019 Corruption Perceptions Index.

11 (b) ELEMENTS OF THE STUDY.—The study con-
12 ducted under subsection (a) shall—

13 (1) identify—

14 (A) the criteria by which foreign commu-
15 nities identify United States communities as
16 candidates for sister city partnerships, including
17 themes with respect to the prominent economic
18 activities and demographics of such United
19 States communities;

1 (B) the activities conducted within sister
2 city partnerships;

3 (C) the economic and educational outcomes
4 of such activities;

5 (D) the types of information that sister
6 city partnerships make publicly available, in-
7 cluding information relating to contracts and
8 activities;

9 (E) the means by which United States
10 communities safeguard freedom of expression
11 within sister city partnerships; and

12 (F) the oversight practices that United
13 States communities implement to mitigate the
14 risks of foreign espionage and economic coer-
15 cion within sister city partnerships;

16 (2) assess—

17 (A) the extent to which United States com-
18 munities ensure transparency regarding sister
19 city partnership contracts and activities;

20 (B) the extent to which sister city partner-
21 ships involve economic arrangements that make
22 United States communities vulnerable to malign
23 market practices;

1 (C) the extent to which sister city partner-
2 ships involve educational arrangements that di-
3 minish the freedom of expression;

4 (D) the extent to which sister city partner-
5 ships allow foreign nationals to access local
6 commercial, educational, and political institu-
7 tions;

8 (E) the extent to which foreign commu-
9 nities could use sister city partnerships to real-
10 ize strategic objectives that do not conduce to
11 the economic and national security interests of
12 the United States;

13 (F) the extent to which sister city partner-
14 ships could enable or otherwise contribute to
15 foreign communities' malign activities globally,
16 including activities relating to human rights
17 abuses and academic and industrial espionage;
18 and

19 (G) the extent to which United States com-
20 munities seek to mitigate foreign nationals' po-
21 tentially inappropriate use of visa programs to
22 participate in activities relating to sister city
23 partnerships; and

24 (3) review—

1 (A) the range of activities conducted within
2 sister city partnerships, including activities re-
3 lating to cultural exchange and economic devel-
4 opment;

5 (B) how such activities differ between sis-
6 ter city partnerships; and

7 (C) best practices to ensure transparency
8 regarding sister city partnerships' agreements,
9 activities, and employees.

10 (c) REPORT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months
12 after initiating the study required under subsection
13 (a), the Comptroller General shall submit a report to
14 the appropriate congressional committees that con-
15 tains the results of such study, including the find-
16 ings, conclusions, and recommendations (if any) of
17 the study.

18 (2) FORM.—The report required under para-
19 graph (1) may include a classified annex, if nec-
20 essary.

21 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
23 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
24 mittees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
2 the Senate;

3 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,
4 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

5 (C) the Committee on Armed Services of
6 the Senate;

7 (D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
8 the House of Representatives;

9 (E) the Committee on Education and
10 Labor of the House of Representatives; and

11 (F) the Committee on Armed Services of
12 the House of Representatives.

13 (2) FOREIGN COMMUNITY.—The term “foreign
14 community” means any subnational unit of govern-
15 ment outside of the United States.

16 (3) SISTER CITY PARTNERSHIP.—The term
17 “sister city partnership” means a formal agreement
18 between a United States community and a foreign
19 community that—

20 (A) is recognized by Sister Cities Inter-
21 national; and

22 (B) is operating within the United States.

23 (4) UNITED STATES COMMUNITY.—The term
24 “United States community” means a State, county,

1 city, or other unit of local government in the United
2 States.

