

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 119-33

OFFERED BY MR. SHREVE OF INDIANA

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 17 ____ . DISMANTLE FOREIGN SCAM SYNDICATES.**

2 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
3 of the United States to—

4 (1) comprehensively combat the transnational
5 organized criminals operating human trafficking
6 compounds primarily in Southeast Asia to perpetrate
7 large-scale online scams against the American peo-
8 ple; and

9 (2) bolster international law enforcement co-
10 operation with nations in Southeast Asia to combat
11 transnational crime, including online scam centers,
12 human trafficking, narcotics trafficking, and money
13 laundering.

14 (b) TASK FORCE.—

15 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
17 President shall establish an interagency Task Force
18 responsible for leading a whole-of-government effort
19 to dismantle and shut down transnational criminal

1 syndicates perpetuating mass online scam operations
2 against Americans through the operation of large-
3 scale scam compounds fueled by the forced labor of
4 victims of trafficking in persons.

5 (2) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

6 (A) not later than 240 days after the date
7 of the enactment of this Act, develop and sub-
8 mit to the appropriate congressional committees
9 a comprehensive United States Government
10 strategy to shut down online scam centers, pre-
11 vent their further proliferation, disrupt and dis-
12 mantle transnational criminal entities and
13 human traffickers involved in operating such
14 centers, and hold accountable corrupt officials,
15 state, and non-state actors enabling such enti-
16 ties and traffickers; and

17 (B) coordinate and oversee implementation
18 of such strategy.

19 (3) LEADERSHIP AND COMPOSITION.—The
20 Task Force shall—

21 (A) be chaired by the Secretary of State
22 (or the Secretary's designee);

23 (B) meet on a regular basis at the call of
24 the Chair; and

1 (C) be comprised of the heads (or the
2 heads' designees) of—

3 (i) the Department of State, including
4 the Bureau of International Narcotics and
5 Law Enforcement Affairs, the Bureau of
6 East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and the
7 Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking
8 in Persons;

9 (ii) the Department of Justice, includ-
10 ing the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

11 (iii) the Department of Homeland Se-
12 curity, including the United States Secret
13 Service and Homeland Security Investiga-
14 tions; and

15 (iv) the Department of the Treasury,
16 including the Office of Terrorism and Fi-
17 nancial Intelligence.

18 (4) FURTHER COMPOSITION.—The heads (or
19 the heads' designees) of the following entities are au-
20 thorized to be members of the Task Force:

21 (A) The Securities and Exchange Commis-
22 sion.

23 (B) The Federal Trade Commission.

24 (C) The Federal Communications Commis-
25 sion.

1 (D) Any other department, agency, or enti-
2 ty the President determines to be relevant.

3 (5) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The intel-
4 ligence community is authorized to provide support
5 to the Task Force.

6 (6) INFORMATION SHARING.—To ensure proper
7 coordination and effective interagency action, the
8 head of each Federal department or agency rep-
9 resented on the Task Force shall fully share—

10 (A) all relevant data with the Task Force;
11 and

12 (B) all information regarding the plans of
13 the applicable department or agency, before and
14 after final agency decisions are made, on all
15 matters relating to actions regarding combating
16 online scams.

17 (7) CONSULTATION.—The Task Force or rep-
18 resentatives thereof should—

19 (A) consult quarterly with United States
20 State and local law enforcement entities and
21 stakeholder organizations with firsthand exper-
22 tise in reporting and combatting online scam
23 operations, investment fraud schemes known as
24 “pig butchering scams”, and other kinds of
25 cyberseams, and recovering stolen crypto assets,

1 and incorporate their feedback and rec-
2 ommendations to the maximum extent feasible;

3 (B) consult regularly with United States
4 non-governmental organizations with expertise
5 in countering trafficking in persons or anti-cor-
6 ruption, as appropriate;

7 (C) consult with relevant private sector ac-
8 tors for the purpose of better understanding
9 how to disrupt foreign scam compounds, oper-
10 ations, and syndicates; and

11 (D) engage civil society organizations in
12 the region to better understand the complexity
13 of the problem in each country and the broader
14 economic, political, and governance challenges
15 that are exacerbating it.

16 (8) SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate
17 on the date that is five years after the date of the
18 enactment of this Act.

19 (c) ELEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The strategy required by
21 subsection (b)(2)(A) shall incorporate the following
22 objectives:

23 (A) Bringing pressure to bear on foreign
24 governments, in coordination with allies and
25 partners to the greatest extent possible, that

1 are complicit in, tolerant of, or uncooperative in
2 combatting online scam operations.

3 (B) Investigating the People's Republic of
4 China's (PRC) involvement in the origin and
5 perpetuation of online scam operations, includ-
6 ing through links between Chinese Communist
7 Party officials and criminal organizations, deep-
8 ening regional security influence, and selective
9 crackdowns that incentivize the targeting of
10 Americans.

11 (C) Investigating the Burmese military's
12 involvement in allowing, neglecting, and prof-
13 iting from online scam operations in Burma,
14 and the importance of resolving the instability
15 and violence in Burma to stop the unfettered
16 operation of scam centers in Burma.

17 (D) Highlighting PRC complicity in and
18 instrumentalization of online scam operations
19 for the international community to hold the
20 PRC accountable.

21 (E) Reducing the power, influence, and
22 scope of transnational criminal organizations
23 and operations in Southeast Asia and wherever
24 else they may propagate.

1 (F) Building the capacity of trusted for-
2 eign law enforcement partners to degrade, dis-
3 rupt, and shut down online scam centers and
4 prevent their proliferation, including through
5 training in digital forensics, anti-money laun-
6 dering, and border patrol.

7 (G) Building the capacity of trusted for-
8 eign law enforcement partners to screen for and
9 protect victims of trafficking in persons in a
10 trauma-informed manner, prosecute traffickers,
11 and prevent trafficking into online scam cen-
12 ters, including through public awareness cam-
13 paigns.

14 (H) Imposing sanctions or other relevant
15 designations, comprehensively and in coordina-
16 tion with allies and partners to the greatest ex-
17 tent possible, on the perpetrators and enablers
18 of online scams, using relevant malicious cyber
19 activity, transnational organized crime, corrup-
20 tion, human rights, and trafficking in persons
21 authorities.

22 (I) Advocating for the thorough review of
23 countries implicated in scam operations at the
24 Financial Action Task Force (FATF) or
25 FATF-style regional bodies.

1 (J) Harnessing offensive cyber capabilities
2 to degrade online scam centers' operations.

3 (K) Recovering and returning stolen assets
4 of defrauded United States persons.

5 (L) Integrating data collection, analysis,
6 and response mechanisms across Federal, State,
7 and local agencies, including by assessing if any
8 existing relevant Fusion Centers could be lever-
9 aged to combat online scam centers.

10 (M) Convening a coalition of like-minded
11 foreign allies and partners to combat online
12 scam centers, including through the establish-
13 ment of similar task forces or working groups,
14 the compilation and sharing of data, and col-
15 laboration regarding the indictment of key ac-
16 tors and enablers.

17 (2) MEASURABLE INDICATORS.—The Task
18 Force shall develop measurable indicators of the suc-
19 cess of the strategy required by subsection (b)(2)(A),
20 which may include persons sanctioned, arrest war-
21 rants or indictments issued, arrests made, United
22 States losses mitigated, and the number of victims
23 of trafficking in persons rescued, and known scam
24 centers reduced, in comparison to the previous year.

25 (d) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 360 days
2 after the date of the submission of the strategy re-
3 quired by subsection (b)(2)(A), and annually there-
4 after for five years, the Task Force shall submit to
5 the appropriate congressional committees a report
6 that includes, for the previous year, the following:

7 (A) A list of all foreign persons sanctioned
8 by the United States under subsection (e)(1) or
9 any other relevant authority in the previous
10 year for benefitting from or being responsible
11 for, complicit in, or responsible for ordering,
12 controlling, or otherwise directing, online finan-
13 cial scams against United States nationals from
14 Southeast Asia.

15 (B) For the foreign persons listed in sub-
16 paragraph (A), an assessment and review of
17 their ongoing involvement in the operation of
18 online scam centers, including an identification
19 of entities in particular from within the Peo-
20 ple’s Republic of China that aid or abet such
21 foreign persons.

22 (C) An estimate of how much money was
23 stolen from United States nationals through
24 scams emanating from online scam centers in

1 Southeast Asia, including as a percentage of
2 the estimated total amount stolen globally.

3 (D) An estimate of how much of the stolen
4 money described in subparagraph (C) was inter-
5 cepted, seized, or returned as a result of United
6 States Government action.

7 (E) An estimate of how many victims of
8 trafficking in persons were employed in online
9 scam centers in Southeast Asia.

10 (F) A list of known online scam centers in
11 Southeast Asia.

12 (G) A description of if, where, and how on-
13 line scam centers and operations have pro-
14 liferated outside of Southeast Asia across other
15 regions of the world.

16 (H) Recommendations on the kinds of pro-
17 grams the Department of State should support
18 in order to effectively implement the strategy
19 described in subsection (b)(2)(A), including cur-
20 rent and recommended funding allocations.

21 (I) Any other measures the Task Force de-
22 termines appropriate to include.

23 (2) FORM.—Each report submitted pursuant to
24 paragraph (1) shall be unclassified but may include
25 a classified annex.

1 (3) CONSULTATION.—The Task Force shall
2 consult regularly with the appropriate congressional
3 committees on its efforts to implement the strategy
4 required by subsection (b)(2)(A), including potential
5 updates. Such consultations should include descrip-
6 tions of the Task Force’s periodic consultations with
7 local law enforcement agencies and civil society orga-
8 nizations and any incorporated recommendations, as
9 well as recommendations for strengthening the Task
10 Force’s capability to effectively shut down online
11 scam centers, dismantle criminal scam organizations,
12 and recoup stolen United States assets.

13 (e) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may impose
15 the sanctions described in paragraph (2) with re-
16 spect to any foreign person that the President deter-
17 mines—

18 (A) owns, controls, or directs a significant
19 scam compound operation or enabling service,
20 including recruitment fraud, human trafficking,
21 cyber-enabled fraud, or money-laundering;

22 (B) provides significant financial or tech-
23 nological support to, or knowingly provides sig-
24 nificant goods or services in support of, the ac-
25 tivities of international scam compounds or ena-

1 bling services, including recruitment fraud,
2 human trafficking, cyber-enabled fraud, or
3 money-laundering; or

4 (C) is a government official who knowingly
5 enables or garners financial or other material
6 benefit from the operation of scam compounds
7 in their governing jurisdictions.

8 (2) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
9 scribed in this paragraph are the following:

10 (A) ASSET BLOCKING.—Notwithstanding
11 the requirements of section 202 of the Inter-
12 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
13 U.S.C. 1701), the President may exercise of all
14 powers granted to the President by that Act to
15 the extent necessary to block and prohibit all
16 transactions in all property and interests in
17 property of the foreign person if such property
18 and interests in property are in the United
19 States, come within the United States, or are or
20 come within the possession or control of a
21 United States person.

22 (B) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

23 (i) IN GENERAL.—An alien who the
24 Secretary of State or the Secretary of
25 Homeland Security (or a designee of one of

1 such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to
2 believe, is described in paragraph (1) is—

3 (I) inadmissible to the United
4 States;

5 (II) ineligible for a visa or other
6 documentation to enter the United
7 States; and

8 (III) otherwise ineligible to be
9 admitted or paroled into the United
10 States or to receive any other benefit
11 under the Immigration and Nation-
12 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

13 (ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

14 (I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing
15 consular officer, the Secretary of
16 State, or the Secretary of Homeland
17 Security (or a designee of one of such
18 Secretaries) shall, in accordance with
19 section 221(i) of the Immigration and
20 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)),
21 revoke any visa or other entry docu-
22 mentation issued to an alien described
23 in paragraph (1) regardless of when
24 the visa or other entry documentation
25 is issued.

1 (II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—

2 A revocation under subclause (I) shall
3 take effect immediately and shall
4 automatically cancel any other valid
5 visa or entry documentation that is in
6 the alien's possession.

7 (3) EXCEPTIONS.—

8 (A) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTER-
9 NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under
10 paragraph (2)(B) shall not apply with respect
11 to the admission of an alien if admitting or pa-
12 roling the alien into the United States is nec-
13 essary to permit the United States to comply
14 with the Agreement regarding the Head-
15 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake
16 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force
17 November 21, 1947, between the United Na-
18 tions and the United States, or other applicable
19 international obligations.

20 (B) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE PROVI-
21 SION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanc-
22 tions under this section may not be imposed
23 with respect to transactions or the facilitation
24 of transactions for—

1 (i) the sale of agricultural commod-
2 ities, food, medicine, or medical devices;

3 (ii) the provision of humanitarian as-
4 sistance;

5 (iii) financial transactions relating to
6 humanitarian assistance; or

7 (iv) transporting goods or services
8 that are necessary to carry out operations
9 relating to humanitarian assistance.

10 (C) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE, LAW
11 ENFORCEMENT, AND NATIONAL SECURITY AC-
12 TIVITIES.—Sanctions under this section shall
13 not apply to any authorized intelligence, law en-
14 forcement, or national security activities of the
15 United States.

16 (D) EXCEPTION FOR SAFETY OF VESSELS
17 AND CREW.—Sanctions under this section shall
18 not apply with respect to a person providing
19 provisions to a vessel otherwise subject to sanc-
20 tions under this section if such provisions are
21 intended for the safety and care of the crew
22 aboard the vessel, the protection of human life
23 aboard the vessel, or the maintenance of the
24 vessel to avoid any environmental or other sig-
25 nificant damage.

1 (E) EXCEPTION WITH RESPECT TO THE
2 IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

3 (i) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and
4 requirements under this section shall not
5 include the authority or any requirement
6 to impose sanctions on the importation of
7 goods.

8 (ii) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section,
9 the term “good” means any article, natural
10 or manmade substance, material, supply,
11 or manufactured product, including inspec-
12 tion and test equipment, and excluding
13 technical data.

14 (F) EXCEPTION.—Sanctions under this
15 subsection shall not apply with respect to a per-
16 son determined by the President to be a victim
17 of trafficking in persons within an online scam
18 center, in accordance with section 102(b)(19) of
19 the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000
20 (22 U.S.C. 7101(b)(19)).

21 (4) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

22 (A) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President
23 may exercise all authorities provided to the
24 President under sections 203 and 205 of the
25 International Emergency Economic Powers Act

1 (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this
2 subsection.

3 (B) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided
4 for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of
5 the International Emergency Economic Powers
6 Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person
7 that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to
8 violate, or causes a violation of regulations pro-
9 mulgated to carry out this subsection to the
10 same extent that such penalties apply to a per-
11 son who commits an unlawful act described in
12 section 206(a) of that Act.

13 (5) WAIVER.—The President may waive the ap-
14 plication of sanctions imposed with respect to a for-
15 eign person under this subsection if the President
16 certifies to the appropriate congressional committees
17 not later than 15 days before such waiver is to take
18 effect that the waiver is important to the national
19 security interests of the United States.

20 (f) PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF HUMAN
21 TRAFFICKING, INCLUDING FORCED CRIMINALITY.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is
23 authorized to carry out programs, out of the funds
24 authorized to be appropriated by subsection (h) and
25 in accordance with section 106(a) of the Trafficking

1 Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(a)),
2 to provide trauma-informed care, shelter, reintegra-
3 tion, and support services for victims of trafficking
4 in persons within online scam centers.

5 (2) DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION.—The Task
6 Force shall ensure programs authorized by para-
7 graph (1) are designed and implemented in a man-
8 ner that prevents revictimization and gains informa-
9 tion and evidence critical to understanding online
10 scam centers’ operations and prosecuting scammers.

11 (g) SATELLITE IMAGERY ACCESS TO MONITOR
12 HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES RELATED TO SCAM CENTERS IN
13 SOUTHEAST ASIA.—

14 (1) ACCESS TO SATELLITE IMAGERY.—The Sec-
15 retary of State is authorized to provide to non-gov-
16 ernmental organizations and research institutions
17 access to current and archival high-resolution sat-
18 ellite imagery for the purposes of monitoring and
19 documenting human rights abuses related to the op-
20 eration of online scam centers in Southeast Asia.

21 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
22 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
23 of State shall submit to the appropriate committees
24 of Congress a report that includes—

1 (A) any terms and conditions applicable
2 with respect to the access described in para-
3 graph (1); and

4 (B) a list of each organization or institu-
5 tion that has been provided access pursuant to
6 paragraph (1).

7 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—The Sec-
8 retary of State shall use amounts otherwise authorized to
9 be appropriated to carry out section 481 of the Foreign
10 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291) to develop, co-
11 ordinate, and implement the strategy of the Task Force
12 required by subsection (b)(2)(A).

13 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

14 (1) the term “appropriate committees of Con-
15 gress” means—

16 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
17 the House of Representatives; and

18 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
19 the Senate; and

20 (2) the term “intelligence community” has the
21 meaning given that term in section 3 of the National
22 Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

