

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-54
OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle C of title XVI, add the following:

1 **SEC. 16__.** **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT REGARDING**
2 **USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITHOUT DEC-**
3 **LARATION OF WAR BY CONGRESS.**

4 (a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that—

6 (1) nuclear deterrence is the bedrock of United
7 States national security;

8 (2) the ability for the United States to quickly
9 and decisively respond to acts of aggression against
10 the United States and the allies and partners of the
11 United States, including nuclear attacks, deters ac-
12 tors from acting against the United States in the
13 first place;

14 (3) as currently structured, responsibility and
15 authority for the release of nuclear weapons resides
16 solely with the President;

17 (4) any Presidential order for a nuclear strike
18 must be verified by a senior official of the Depart-

1 ment of Defense or military officer to ensure that a
2 lawful order was in fact issued by the President;

3 (5) neither a senior official of the Department
4 nor a military officer in the chain of command has
5 veto power and, therefore, must comply with a law-
6 ful order or resign;

7 (6) however, entrusting an individual with the
8 authority to order the use of nuclear weapons raises
9 the possibility, however small, of their accidental or
10 inappropriate use that risks catastrophic loss of life
11 and potential escalation into nuclear war; and

12 (7) the chain of command established under
13 section 162(b) of title 10, United States Code, ap-
14 plies to Presidential orders regarding the use of nu-
15 clear weapons.

16 (b) NOTIFICATION.—

17 (1) REQUIREMENT.—To the extent practicable,
18 upon the receipt of an order described in paragraph
19 (2) and before carrying out such order, the Sec-
20 retary of Defense, or any other senior official of the
21 Department of Defense or military officer that is in
22 direct receipt of such order, shall notify the congres-
23 sional defense committees, the Speaker of the House
24 of Representatives, the majority leader of the Sen-
25 ate, the minority leader of the House of Representa-

1 tives, and the minority leader of the Senate of such
2 order.

3 (2) ORDER DESCRIBED.—An order described in
4 this paragraph is a verified order by the President
5 to use nuclear weapons without a declaration of war
6 by Congress.

