AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118–10

OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

Add at the end of subtitle F of title X the following:

SEC. 10. GAO REVIEW AND REPORT ON BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS EXPERIMENTS ON AND IN RELATION TO TICKS, TICK-BORNE DISEASE.

(a) Review.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of research conducted during the period beginning on January 1, 1945, and ending on December 31, 1970, by the Department of Defense, including by the Department of Defense in consultation with the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Agriculture, or any other Federal agency on—

(1) the use of ticks as hosts or delivery mechanisms for biological warfare agents, including experiments involving Spirochaetales and Rickettsiales; and

(2) any efforts to improve the effectiveness and viability of Spirochaetales and Rickettsiales as biological weapons through combination with other diseases or viruses.
(b) LOCATION OF RESEARCH.—In conducting the review under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review research conducted at facilities located inside United States and facilities located outside the United States, including laboratories and field work locations.

(c) REVIEW OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—In conducting the review under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall review any relevant classified information.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report, which shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex, that includes the following:

(1) the scope of any research described in subsection (a); and

(2) whether any ticks used in such research were released outside of any facility (including any ticks that were released unintentionally); and

(3) whether any records related to such research were destroyed, and whether such destruction was intentional or unintentional.