

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 115–70**  
**OFFERED BY MR. TROTT OF MICHIGAN**

At the end of subtitle F of title XII, add the following:

1   **SEC. 12\_\_\_\_. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING WAR**  
2                   **CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND**  
3                   **GENOCIDE AGAINST VULNERABLE RELI-**  
4                   **GIOUS AND ETHNIC GROUPS IN THE MIDDLE**  
5                   **EAST.**

6           (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7               (1) The lessons of past genocides should be ap-  
8           plied to help prevent future war crimes, crimes  
9           against humanity, and genocide.

10           (2) On March 17, 2016, the Department of  
11           State declared that “Da’esh is responsible for geno-  
12           cide against groups in areas under its control, in-  
13           cluding Yezidis, Christians, and Shia Muslims”, and  
14           is “also responsible for crimes against humanity and  
15           ethnic cleansing directed at these same groups and  
16           in some cases against Sunni Muslims and Kurds and  
17           other minorities.”.

18           (3) The House of Representatives, on March  
19           14, 2016, passed H. Con. Res. 75, which concluded

1       that “the atrocities perpetrated by ISIL against  
2       Christians, Yezidis, and other religious and ethnic  
3       minorities in Iraq and Syria constitute war crimes,  
4       crimes against humanity, and genocide”.

5           (4) The Senate, on July 7, 2016, passed S.  
6       Res. 340, which concluded that “the atrocities per-  
7       petrated by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant  
8       (ISIL) against Christians, Yezidis, Shi’a, and other  
9       religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria  
10      constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, and  
11      genocide”.

12          (5) The United States has a proud record of  
13      protesting and providing relief to Armenian and  
14      other Christian survivors of the Ottoman Empire’s  
15      genocidal campaign.

16          (6) President Woodrow Wilson encouraged the  
17      formation of the Near East Relief, chartered by an  
18      Act of Congress, which raised \$116,000,000 (over  
19      \$2,500,000,000 in 2017 dollars) between 1915 and  
20      1930, the Senate adopted resolutions condemning  
21      these massacres, and United States diplomats orga-  
22      nized and led protests of these crimes.

23          (7) The United States is on record as having  
24      officially recognized the Armenian Genocide, in the  
25      United States Government’s May 28, 1951, written

1 statement to the International Court of Justice re-  
2 garding the Convention on the Prevention and Pun-  
3 ishment of the Crime of Genocide, through President  
4 Ronald Reagan's April 22, 1981, Proclamation No.  
5 4838, and by House Joint Resolution 148, adopted  
6 on April 8, 1975, and House Joint Resolution 247,  
7 adopted on September 10, 1984.

8 (8) The proper commemoration and consistent  
9 condemnation of the Armenian Genocide will  
10 strengthen our international standing in preventing  
11 modern day genocides.

12 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
13 gress that the United States, in seeking to prevent war  
14 crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide against  
15 Christians, Yezidis, Muslims, Kurds, and other vulnerable  
16 religious and ethnic groups in the Middle East, should  
17 draw upon relevant lessons of the United States Govern-  
18 ment, civil society, and humanitarian response to the Ar-  
19 menian Genocide, Seyfo, and the broader genocidal cam-  
20 paign by the Ottoman Empire against Armenians, Assyr-  
21 ians, Chaldeans, Syriacs, Greeks, Pontians and other  
22 Christians upon their biblical era homelands.

