

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5515
OFFERED BY MR. ROGERS OF ALABAMA

At the appropriate place in title XVI, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 16___ . SENSE OF CONGRESS ON NUCLEAR POSTURE**
2 **OF THE UNITED STATES.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that—

4 (1) for more than 70 years, the nuclear deter-
5 rent of the United States has played a central role
6 in the national security of the United States and
7 international stability;

8 (2) the nuclear forces of the United States have
9 and will continue to play a fundamental role in de-
10 terring aggression against the interests of the
11 United States and the allies of the United States in
12 an increasingly dangerous world;

13 (3) strong, credible, and flexible nuclear forces
14 of the United States assure the allies of the United
15 States that the extended deterrence guarantees of
16 the United States are credible and that the resolve
17 of the United States remains strong even in the face
18 of nuclear provocations, including nuclear coercion
19 and blackmail;

1 (4) the 2017 National Security Strategy and
2 the 2018 National Defense Strategy correctly assess
3 that, due to increased global disorder and com-
4 plexity, the decline of the international rules-based
5 order and security environment, and the erosion of
6 the competitive advantages of the United States,
7 inter-state strategic competition must now be the
8 primary focus of the national security strategy of the
9 United States;

10 (5) the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review aligns
11 with these conclusions, and recognizes that deter-
12 rence is dynamic, not static, and that while the nu-
13 clear posture and policies of the United States are
14 underpinned by enduring consistency, such posture
15 and policies must also undergo measured adjust-
16 ments to remain credible as threats evolve;

17 (6) the Russian Federation has elevated the
18 role of nuclear weapons in its strategies, is devel-
19 oping and deploying new nuclear capabilities (includ-
20 ing a recently announced nuclear-powered cruise
21 missile and high-speed, nuclear-powered underwater
22 drone), is violating many arms control agreements
23 (including the INF Treaty), and has made explicit
24 nuclear threats against the United States and the al-
25 lies of the United States;

1 (7) the United States remains committed to its
2 full range of nuclear arms control and nonprolifera-
3 tion obligations and seeks continued engagement for
4 prudent and verifiable agreements, however, the poli-
5 cies and actions of the United States must also hold
6 states that violate arms control treaties accountable
7 for such violations and take such violations into ac-
8 count when considering further arms control agree-
9 ments;

10 (8) the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
11 (NATO) plays an essential role in the national secu-
12 rity of the United States and NATO should continue
13 to strengthen and align its nuclear and conventional
14 deterrence posture, planning, and exercises to align
15 with modern threats, including modernizing its dual-
16 capable aircraft, command and control networks, nu-
17 clear-related facilities, and conventional capabilities;

18 (9) to deter large-scale, catastrophic war with
19 Russia, the People's Republic of China, and other
20 potential adversaries, as well as reassure allies, the
21 United States requires reliable, diverse, and
22 tailorable nuclear forces that are able to respond to
23 a variety of current threats while preparing for fu-
24 ture uncertainty;

1 (10) the 2018 Nuclear Posture Review recon-
2 firms the value of the nuclear triad and dual-capable
3 aircraft of the United States, directs the continu-
4 ation of the comprehensive nuclear modernization
5 program initiated by the previous administration,
6 and proposes two supplemental capabilities (a lower-
7 yield submarine-launched ballistic missile warhead
8 and a sea-launched cruise missile) that will strength-
9 en deterrence and assurance and reduce the chances
10 that nuclear weapons are used in conflict;

11 (11) three successive Secretaries of Defense
12 across two administrations have stated that nuclear
13 deterrence is the highest priority mission of the De-
14 partment of Defense; and

15 (12) in light of this prioritization, the age of
16 the current nuclear forces and infrastructure of the
17 United States, and the small percentage of the de-
18 fense budget that will be expended on the recapital-
19 ization of the nuclear deterrent of the United States,
20 the modernization of the nuclear forces, command
21 and control systems, and supporting infrastructure
22 of the United States is affordable and a national im-
23 perative.

