

Amendment to H.R. 8800**Offered by: Mr. Garamendi of California**

In the appropriate place in the report to accompany H.R. 8800, insert the following new Directive Report Language:

Strategic Stability in the Face of Emerging Technologies and Evolving Arms Control Conditions

The committee is concerned that the Department of Defense is pursuing costly and potentially destabilizing military technologies, novel nuclear capabilities, and expansive missile defense architectures without a sufficient public accounting of the long-term consequences for strategic stability, arms racing, escalation risk, and the security of the American people. The committee is further concerned that the administration's decision to allow the Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, commonly known as New START, to lapse has weakened transparency and removed guardrails that helped limit unconstrained nuclear competition for 15 years.

The committee believes the Department should assess how these policy choices and technology investments may affect adversary behavior, United States force-planning assumptions, escalation risk, arms race dynamics, and future arms control or risk-reduction opportunities before committing substantial taxpayer resources to weapon systems that may leave the United States less secure.

The committee directs the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Administrator for Nuclear Security, to submit a report to the House Committee on Armed Services not later than December 31, 2026, on strategic stability risks associated with emerging technologies, novel nuclear capabilities, missile defense architectures, and the post-New START security environment. The report should include the following:

- (1) an assessment of how any development by the Department of nuclear-equipped hypersonic weapons could adversely impact strategic stability, crisis stability, deterrence, and escalation risk;
- (2) an assessment of how low-yield nuclear weapons could negatively affect deterrence dynamics, escalation risk, and adversary perceptions of the nuclear threshold;
- (3) an assessment of whether similar novel nuclear capabilities could create comparable risks to strategic stability or deterrence and further hamstring our ability to develop risk reduction strategies with adversaries;
- (4) an assessment of expected changes in adversary nuclear, missile, and countermeasure posture in response to the Department's currently planned Golden Dome for America architecture;

- (5) an assessment of expected adversary responses to alternative Golden Dome for America architectures, including architectures involving space-based interceptors, ground-based systems, sensor constellations, and other relevant components;
- (6) an assessment of whether Golden Dome for America could affect arms-racing dynamics, crisis stability, strategic stability, deterrence, or cost-imposition risks;
- (7) a comparative cost assessment of Golden Dome for America architectures and expected adversary responses, including whether adversary countermeasures or force expansions could impose additional long-term costs on the United States;
- (8) an assessment of changes to the posture, force-planning assumptions, and threat calculations of the United States following the lapse of New START;
- (9) an assessment of changes to international strategic stability and risks of nuclear arms racing involving nuclear-armed and non-nuclear states and steps the Department is taking to reduce the risk of arms races;
- (11) an analysis of how executive branch and congressional action can support arms control, strategic stability, transparency, or risk-reduction efforts with the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China; and
- (12) any recommendations to reduce escalation risks, misperception, arms-racing incentives, cost-imposition risks, or strategic instability associated with such developments.

The report shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex.