SEC. ___. PROCUREMENT AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN PARTS OF INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE FUZES.

(a) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding section 1502(a) of title 31, United States Code, of the amount authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2019 by section 103 for Missile Procurement, Air Force, $9,841,000 shall be available for the procurement of covered parts pursuant to contracts entered into under section 1645(a) of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3651).

(b) COVERED PARTS DEFINED.—In this section, the term "covered parts" means commercially available off-the-shelf items as defined in section 104 of title 41, United States Code.

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would provide authority to use Air Force procurement funds to purchase intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) fuze Commercial-Off-The-Shelf (COTS) parts qualified for use during and after exposure to nuclear environments sufficient to support the life of the program. The Air Force ICBM parts will be purchased and qualified in conjunction with Navy fuze program assets, and then stockpiled until required by the Air Force program, beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2021. This proposal would provide for the fifth year (FY 2019) of a planned five-year life-of-type procurement strategy (FY 2015-2019) first authorized in section 1645 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Public Law 113-291; 128 Stat. 3651). The five-year buy strategy mirrors the Navy buys that the Department of Defense is leveraging. This will be the last year of the life-of-type buy because the program will begin production in FY 2020.

The Navy and Air Force are developing nuclear warhead fuzes for use on their respective Trident II and Minuteman III ballistic missiles. The Services are cooperating in their fuze development and production efforts at the direction of the Nuclear Weapons Council. The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) is supporting both Services with Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) as the Design Agent and Kansas City National Security Campus (KCNSC-formerly the Kansas City Plant) as the Production Agent. This cooperation will leverage the use of common designs, processes, and parts to improve sustainability and reduce life cycle costs.

The life-of-type procurement strategy is critical to affordably buy qualified COTS parts for use during and after exposure to nuclear environments and to ensure commonality between the Air Force and the Navy. The Air Force plans to procure COTS parts common to the Minuteman III and Trident II warhead fuze programs to provide a pool of interchangeable, qualified, and certified parts. Examples of parts to be procured include: Application Specific Integrated Circuits, Radio Frequency Integrated Circuits, Heterojunction Bipolar Transistors, Wafers, Diodes, Actuators, Special Blend Glass Igniters, and Titanium Potassium Perchlorate Powder Igniters. Procured parts will be delivered to the NNSA's KCNSC for use in producing common component modules for the Air Force and Navy fuzes. Some component modules will be entirely interchangeable between the Services while others will have interchangeable subassemblies.

Procurement of these parts in quantities to support development, production, and spares is necessary because qualification and certification of COTS parts to operate during and after exposure to nuclear radiation environments is limited to a selected supplier for a particular period of production. Due to the unique military requirement for operation during and after exposure to nuclear radiation environments, the Government selects, tests, qualifies, and certifies these parts for use in nuclear weapon fuzes. This process characterizes the range of degraded performance in nuclear radiation environments which is then used in determining the design of the fuze and its component modules. The Government's qualification and certification is limited to specific production lots due to variations in supplier processes and materials which significantly change electronics performance in nuclear radiation environments. These changes in supplier processes and materials may not appreciably change performance in meeting commercial specifications. Parts available from the supplier in subsequent production lots or from other suppliers are not qualified or certified for use in nuclear weapon fuzes without retesting, requalification, and recertification and associated redesign of the fuze and its component modules, if required. If redesign is required, the parts require a new part number and separate supply chain management.

The FY 2019 President's Budget includes funding for Air Force ICBM Fuze life-of-type buy parts to coincide with Navy nuclear qualification, certification, and procurement of the same parts. These procurements must occur in FY 2019 to ensure qualified, interchangeable parts are available for the initiation of Navy fuze procurement and subsequent Air Force fuze procurement. Utilizing subsequent production lots would require separate nuclear qualification and certification processes, resulting in two pools of non-interchangeable parts, loss of commonality with the Navy fuze, increased life cycle costs, and would add significant risk to the ICBM First Production Unit (FPU) delivery in FY 2022.

Budget Implications: The FY 2019 budget request includes $9.841 million necessary to procure these COTS parts. No additional funds are required to execute this authority.

Without this authority, there is a range of impacts. Assuming the program is still able to procure the same hardware for the common components, the program cost would increase by $206.6 million. This total program cost increase is comprised of $18.5 million in additional qualification costs and $188.1 million from a potential one-year program slip due to the increased development schedule.

At the other end of the range of impacts, the worst case scenario would be that the program cannot procure the same hardware for the common components and will need to redesign those components to support Air Force requirements. In this situation, the program will slip a minimum of three years to support redesign. Given this scenario, the program cost would increase by $564.7 million. This total program cost increase is comprised of $25.2 million in additional qualification costs and $539.5 million from the minimum three-year program slip due to redesign requirements. This is funded in the FY 2019 President's Budget request.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS)									
	FY 2019	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash-1 Line Item**	**Program Element**
M30 FLH/ICBM Fuze Mod	9.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Missile Procurement, Air Force	03	P-10	0101328F
Total	9.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	--	--	--	--

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would not change the text of any existing provision of law.