

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-**

**10**

**OFFERED BY MRS. TORRES OF CALIFORNIA**

Add at the end of title XVIII the following:

1 **SEC. 18 \_\_\_\_ . REVIEW OF STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSI-**

2 **FICATION SYSTEM.**

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

4 (1) Public Safety Telecommunicators play a  
5 critical role in emergency response.

6 (2) The work Public Safety Telecommunicators  
7 perform goes far beyond merely relaying information  
8 between the public and first responders.

9 (3) When responding to reports of missing, ab-  
10 ducted, and sexually exploited children, the informa-  
11 tion obtained and actions taken by Public Safety  
12 Telecommunicators form the foundation for an effec-  
13 tive response.

14 (4) When a hostage taker or suicidal person  
15 calls 9–1–1, the first contact is with the Public Safe-  
16 ty Telecommunicator whose negotiation skills can  
17 prevent the situation from getting worse.

18 (5) During active shooter incidents, Public  
19 Safety Telecommunicators coach callers through

1 first aid and give advice to prevent further harm, all  
2 while collecting vital information to provide situa-  
3 tional awareness for responding officers.

4 (6) And when police officers, firefighters, and  
5 Emergency Medical Technicians are being shot at,  
6 their calls for help go to Public Safety Telecommu-  
7 nicators.

8 (7) They are often communicating with people  
9 in great distress, harm, fear, or injury, while em-  
10 ploying their experience and training to recognize a  
11 critical piece of information.

12 (8) In fact, there have been incidents in which  
13 Public Safety Telecommunicators, recognizing the  
14 sound of a racked shotgun, have prevented serious  
15 harm or death of law enforcement officers who  
16 would have otherwise walked into a trap.

17 (9) This work comes with an extreme emotional  
18 and physical impact that is compounded by long  
19 hours and the around-the-clock nature of the job.

20 (10) Indeed, research has suggested that Public  
21 Safety Telecommunicators are exposed to trauma  
22 that may lead to the development of posttraumatic  
23 stress disorder.

24 (11) Recognizing the risks associated with expo-  
25 sure to traumatic events, some agencies provide

1 Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) teams to  
2 lessen the psychological impact and accelerate recovery  
3 for Public Safety Telecommunicators and first  
4 responders, alike.

5 (12) The Standard Occupational Classification  
6 system is designed and maintained solely for statistical  
7 purposes, and is used by federal statistical  
8 agencies to classify workers and jobs into occupational  
9 categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating,  
10 analyzing, or disseminating data.

11 (13) Occupations in the Standard Occupational  
12 Classification are classified based on work performed  
13 and, in some cases, on the skills, education, or training  
14 needed to perform the work.

15 (14) Classifying public safety telecommunicators  
16 as Protective Service Occupations would correct  
17 an inaccurate representation in the Standard Occupational  
18 Classification, recognize these professionals  
19 for the lifesaving work they perform, and better  
20 align the Standard Occupational Classification with  
21 related classification systems.

22 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of  
23 Management and Budget shall not later than 30 days  
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act, categorize  
25 public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occu-

1 pation under the Standard Occupational Classification  
2 System.

