AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118–10

OFFERED BY MRS. TORRES OF CALIFORNIA

Add at the end of title XVIII the following:

SEC. 18. REVIEW OF STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

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

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

(3) When responding to reports of missing, abducted, and sexually exploited children, the information obtained and actions taken by Public Safety Telecommunicators form the foundation for an effective response.

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

(5) During active shooter incidents, Public Safety Telecommunicators coach callers through
first aid and give advice to prevent further harm, all
while collecting vital information to provide situ-
tional awareness for responding officers.

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

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

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

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

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

(11) Recognizing the risks associated with expo-
sure to traumatic events, some agencies provide
Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) teams to lessen the psychological impact and accelerate recovery for Public Safety Telecommunicators and first responders, alike.

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

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

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

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occu-
pation under the Standard Occupational Classification System.