AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 5
OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of title VIII of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 802. STATE SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM.

(a) Establishment.—The Secretary of Education shall award grants to States to establish or improve a Seal of Biliteracy program to recognize student proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language.

(b) Grant Application.—In order to receive a grant under this section, a State shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the Secretary may require, including—

(1) a description of the criteria a student must meet to demonstrate proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language;

(2) assurances that a student who meets the requirements under paragraph (1)—
(A) receives a permanent seal or other marker on the student’s secondary school diploma or its equivalent; and

(B) receives documentation of proficiency in the student’s official academic transcript; and

(3) assurances that a student is not charged a fee for submitting an application under subsection (e).

(c) STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN A SEAL OF BILITERACY PROGRAM.—To participate in a Seal of Biliteracy program, a student must submit an application to the State that serves the student at such time, in such manner, and containing such information and assurances as the State may require, including assurances that the student—

(1) will receive a secondary school diploma or its equivalent in the year the student submits an application; and

(2) has met the criteria established by the State under subsection (b)(1).

(d) STUDENT ELIGIBILITY FOR APPLICATION.—A student who gained proficiency in a second language outside of school may apply to participate in a Seal of Biliteracy program under subsection (c).
(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds made available under this section shall be used for administrative costs of establishing or improving and carrying out a Seal of Biliteracy program and for public outreach and education about that program.

(f) GRANT TERMS.—

(1) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this section shall be for a period of 2 years, and may be renewed at the discretion of the Secretary.

(2) RENEWAL.—At the end of a grant term, the recipient of such grant may reapply for a grant under this section.

(3) LIMITATIONS.—A grant recipient under this section shall not have more than 1 grant under this section at anytime.

(4) RETURN OF UNSPENT GRANT FUNDS.—Not later than 6 months after the date on which a grant term ends, a recipient of a grant under this section shall return any unspent grant funds to the Secretary.

(g) REPORT.—Not later than 9 months after receiving a grant under this section, a grant recipient shall issue a report to the Secretary describing the implementation of the Seal of Biliteracy program.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms “secondary school”, “Secretary”, and “State” have the meanings given those terms in section 6101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(2) SECOND LANGUAGE.—The term “second language” means any language other than English, including Braille and American Sign Language.

(3) SEAL OF BILINGUAL PROGRAM.—The term “Seal of Biliteracy program” means any program established under this section.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary $10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021 to carry out this section.