

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-33
OFFERED BY MRS. DINGELL OF MICHIGAN

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 17___ . DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERV-**
2 **ICES PROGRAMS FOR PREVENTION OF OCCU-**
3 **PATIONAL ILLNESS AND INJURY THROUGH**
4 **EXPANDED AVAILABILITY OF NEXT-GENERA-**
5 **TION TURNOUT GEAR.**

6 (a) RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND TESTING
7 GRANT PROGRAM.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
9 appropriations, not later than 180 days after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, act-
11 ing through the Director of the National Institute
12 for Occupational Safety and Health, in consultation
13 with the heads of other Federal agencies as appro-
14 priate, shall establish a program to award grants to
15 eligible entities to support research, development,
16 and testing of next-generation turnout gear and as-
17 sociated materials.

18 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (A) PFAS-FREE COMPONENTS.—Grants
2 awarded under this subsection shall support the
3 research, development, and testing of materials
4 to design and produce PFAS-free turnout gear.

5 (B) PARTNERSHIP.—The Secretary shall
6 require that applications for grants under this
7 subsection include a description of how the eli-
8 gible entity will partner with organizations in,
9 and relevant to, the firefighting industry, in-
10 cluding organizations that directly represent
11 members who serve in nonmanagerial fire-
12 fighting roles, and how such partnership will
13 help move the results of research, development,
14 and testing described in subparagraph (A) into
15 practice, including guidance and training for
16 first responders and others who regularly use
17 turnout gear.

18 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making awards
19 under this subsection, the Secretary may consider
20 the extent to which the activities proposed support
21 the research, development, and testing described in
22 paragraph (2)(A) that is likely to prevent occupa-
23 tional illness and injury for firefighters, including in-
24 novations that provide the following:

1 (A) Enhanced protection against primary
2 and secondary exposure to particulates and by-
3 products of combustion.

4 (B) Reduced maintenance that includes
5 contamination resistance and greater ease of
6 cleaning or visible warning indicators to alert
7 firefighters to hazardous exposures or the need
8 for decontamination.

9 (C) Consideration of body composition in
10 development of prototypes and other products.

11 (4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
12 There is authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000
13 for each of fiscal years 2025 through fiscal year
14 2029 to carry out this subsection.

15 (b) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
17 appropriations, the Secretary, beginning in fiscal
18 year 2027, shall award grants to, or enter into con-
19 tracts or cooperative agreements with, eligible enti-
20 ties, as determined by the Secretary, to develop and
21 disseminate guidance and training for firefighters
22 and other first responders on best practices for re-
23 ducing potentially harmful exposures by safely wear-
24 ing, decontaminating, and caring for turnout gear
25 developed in accordance with section (a).

1 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 There is authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000
3 for each of fiscal years 2027 through fiscal year
4 2031 to carry out this subsection.

5 (c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
7 to Congress a report describing the progress made in
8 achieving the goals under subsections (a) and (b).

9 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) The term “eligible entity” means a non-
11 profit organization, institution of higher education,
12 national fire service organization, or national fire
13 safety organization, as determined by the Secretary,
14 with experience in not fewer than three of the fol-
15 lowing:

16 (A) Conducting research on issues related
17 to cancer and other occupational illnesses
18 among firefighters.

19 (B) Educating firefighters and other users
20 of turnout gear on safe use, cleaning, and de-
21 contamination of turnout gear.

22 (C) Educating firefighters on matters re-
23 lated to physical health, safety, and wellness.

1 (D) Experience collaborating with other
2 national nonprofit organizations to support re-
3 search on firefighter safety and health.

4 (E) Demonstrated ability to collaborate
5 with researchers on matters related to fire-
6 fighter health and safety.

7 (F) Representing membership comprised of
8 structural, wildfire, and aircraft firefighters and
9 supervisors.

10 (2) The term “moisture barrier material”
11 means the component of turnout gear that prin-
12 cipally prevents the transfer of hazardous liquids, in-
13 cluding hot liquids, fireground chemicals, and infec-
14 tious fluids, and contributes to the overall thermal
15 insulation of the firefighter without imposing undue
16 burdens or otherwise compromising the performance
17 of turnout gear.

18 (3) The term “PFAS” means per- and
19 polyfluoroalkyl substances that contain at least one
20 fully fluorinated carbon atom or any other substance
21 the Secretary determines appropriate.

22 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
23 of Health and Human Services.

24 (5) The term “turnout gear”—

1 (A) means protective clothing worn as a
2 main source of protection for firefighters and
3 emergency medical services personnel during
4 firefighting and post-fire operations to minimize
5 exposure to hazards that cause serious injuries
6 and illnesses that may result from contact with
7 thermal, physical, chemical, biological, or other
8 workplace hazards;

9 (B) includes protective clothing designed to
10 protect firefighters performing structural fire-
11 fighting, proximity firefighting, wildland fire-
12 fighting, and urban interface firefighting; and

13 (C) may include other personal protective
14 equipment referred to in section 33(c)(3)(I)(i)
15 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act
16 of 1974 (15 U.S.C. 2229(c)(3)(I)(i)).

