AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117–18
OFFERED BY MR. DUNN OF FLORIDA

Subtitle I of title III is amended by inserting after section 31001 the following:

SEC. 31001A. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COVID–19 CELLULAR IMMUNE RESPONSE RESEARCH.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”)—

(1) shall—

(A) expand, intensify, and coordinate the programs and activities of the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with respect to scientific and clinical research on the cellular immune response related to COVID–19;

(B) develop and implement a national strategy to research the cellular immune response to SARS–CoV–2, which shall include research on—

(i) the type and duration of T-cell responses to COVID–19 vaccines and how
such responses confer immunity and contribute to protection from infection with SARS–CoV–2 variants of concern;

(ii) the type and duration of T-cell responses in patients who have recovered from COVID–19 and how such responses may confer immunity;

(iii) the type and duration of T-cell immune responses in patients facing long-term COVID–19 symptoms; and

(iv) the type and duration of T-cell responses to vaccination and natural infection in certain populations, such as children, the elderly, and immunocompromised individuals; and

(C) update the strategy under subparagraph (B) as appropriate; and

(2) subject to the availability of appropriations, may make grants to States, political subdivisions, public-private partnerships, academic institutions, and other public entities to carry out scientific and clinical research on the cellular immune response related to COVID–19 and to implement the strategy under paragraph (2).
(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall consult with relevant individuals, as appropriate, such as—

(1) clinicians, public health professionals, and others with expertise in cellular immune response;

(2) representatives of patient advocacy and research organizations with interest in cellular immune research;

(3) researchers with expertise in cellular immunology; and

(4) epidemiologists with experience in cellular immune response.

(c) PUBLIC MEETING.—Not later than 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall convene a public meeting composed of subject matter experts and stakeholders to identify research needs and opportunities.

(d) PUBLICATION OF STRATEGY.—The Secretary shall make public the strategy under subsection (a)(1)(B), including initial funding opportunity announcements, within 6 months of the date of enactment of this Act.