

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:

1 **SEC. 31001A. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COVID-19 CEL-**
2 **LULAR IMMUNE RESPONSE RESEARCH.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
4 Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-
5 retary”)—

6 (1) shall—

7 (A) expand, intensify, and coordinate the
8 programs and activities of the National Insti-
9 tutes of Health and the Centers for Disease
10 Control and Prevention with respect to sci-
11 entific and clinical research on the cellular im-
12 mune response related to COVID-19;

13 (B) develop and implement a national
14 strategy to research the cellular immune re-
15 sponse to SARS-CoV-2, which shall include re-
16 search on—

17 (i) the type and duration of T-cell re-
18 sponses to COVID-19 vaccines and how

1 such responses confer immunity and con-
2 tribute to protection from infection with
3 SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern;

4 (ii) the type and duration of T-cell re-
5 sponses in patients who have recovered
6 from COVID-19 and how such responses
7 may confer immunity;

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

11 (iv) the type and duration of T-cell re-
12 sponses to vaccination and natural infec-
13 tion in certain populations, such as chil-
14 dren, the elderly, and immunocompromised
15 individuals; and

16 (C) update the strategy under subpara-
17 graph (B) as appropriate; and

18 (2) subject to the availability of appropriations,
19 may make grants to States, political subdivisions,
20 public-private partnerships, academic institutions,
21 and other public entities to carry out scientific and
22 clinical research on the cellular immune response re-
23 lated to COVID-19 and to implement the strategy
24 under paragraph (2).

1 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection (a),
2 the Secretary shall consult with relevant individuals, as
3 appropriate, such as—

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

6 (2) representatives of patient advocacy and re-
7 search organizations with interest in cellular immune
8 research;

9 (3) researchers with expertise in cellular immu-
10 nology; and

11 (4) epidemiologists with experience in cellular
12 immune response.

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

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

