AMENDMENT TO RULES

COMMITTEE PRINT 116–41

OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

At the end of title VIII, add the following new section (and update the table of sections accordingly):

SEC. _____ SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE IMPACT OF THE HIGH COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AND PERSONS LIVING IN RURAL OR SPARSELY POPULATED AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the United States has the highest drug prices in the world and for millions of Americans the cost of prescription drugs is increasing as a barrier to proper disease treatment, especially for communities of color and for persons living in rural or sparsely populated areas of the nation;

(2) the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111–148) substantially reduced the number of uninsured Americans, but over 28 million Americans remain without insurance and approximately 55 percent of uninsured Americans under the age of 65 are persons of color;
(3) without health insurance, paying retail prices for medications is invariably burdensome or financially impossible;

(4) the median net worth of Caucasian households in 2016 was 9.7 times higher than African-American households and 8.3 times higher than Hispanic households, which contributes to disparities in negative health consequences, including for example the underuse of insulin among insured adults with diabetes; and

(5) due to the high cost of prescription drugs to communities of color and for persons living in rural or sparsely populated areas of the nation, this Act should positively impact such communities and persons (and the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Treasury should monitor such impact).