AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115–23

OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS

At the end of title II, at the following new section:

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND EXPANSION OF HACKING FOR DEFENSE PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The MD5 Hacking for Defense Program enables universities nationwide to provide valuable entrepreneurial and innovation education to students, providing formal training for scientists and engineers to pursue careers in business or government organizations.

(2) The MD5 Hacking for Defense Program is successful in part due to its focus on ensuring that government problems are well-defined and suitable for university courses, ensuring that educators are trained and certified in course methodology and curriculum, and providing an ecosystem of government and corporate mentors to student teams to enhance their education and access to clients familiar with specific problems.
(3) Hacking for Defense programs provide a unique pathway for veteran students to leverage their military expertise to solve rapidly emerging national security challenges while learning cutting-edge business innovation methodology.

(4) The MD5 Hacking for Defense Program’s success in the early stages of the innovation continuum should be expanded to offer training to universities nationwide, and government personnel and organizations charged with innovation.

(b) **Establishment and Expansion of Hacking for Defense Program.**—

(1) **Authorization.**—The Secretary of Defense is authorized to establish a Hacking for Defense Program under which the Secretary may obligate or expend up to $15,000,000 to support university-based entrepreneurial education programs, including—

(A) materials to recruit veterans for such programs;

(B) model curriculum for such programs;

(C) training materials for such programs; and

(D) best practices for the conduct of such programs.
(2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary of Defense may consult with the heads of such Federal agencies, universities, and public and private entities engaged in the development of advanced technologies as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(3) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

   (A) develop and maintain eligibility criteria for programs to become recognized as Hacking for Defense education sites; and

   (B) ensure that any recipient of a grant under the Small Business Technology Transfer program or the Small Business Innovation Research program has the option to participate in training under the MD5 Hacking for Defense Program.