

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-

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OFFERED BY MR. LIPINSKI OF ILLINOIS

At the end of title X, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 10 ____. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION I-CORPS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The National Science Foundation Innova-
4 tion Corps Program (hereinafter referred to as “I-
5 Corps”), created administratively by the Foundation
6 in 2011 and statutorily authorized in the American
7 Innovation and Competitiveness Act, has succeeded
8 in increasing the commercialization of Government-
9 funded research.

10 (2) I-Corps provides valuable entrepreneurial
11 education to graduate students, postdoctoral fellows,
12 and other researchers, providing formal training for
13 scientists and engineers to pursue careers in busi-
14 ness, an increasingly common path for advanced de-
15 gree holders.

16 (3) The I-Corps Teams program is successful in
17 part due to its focus on providing the specific types
18 of education and mentoring entrepreneurs need
19 based on the early stage of their companies, however

1 the program does not provide similar support to
2 them at later stages.

3 (4) The success of I-Corps in the very early
4 stages of the innovation continuum should be ex-
5 panded upon by offering additional entrepreneurship
6 training to small businesses as they advance toward
7 commercialization.

8 (5) The excellent training made available to
9 grantees of participating agencies through the I-
10 Corps Program should be made available to all Fed-
11 eral grantees as well as other businesses willing to
12 pay the cost of attending such training.

13 (6) The success of the I-Corps Program at pro-
14 moting entrepreneurship within research institutions
15 and encouraging research commercialization has
16 been due in part to the National Science Founda-
17 tion's efforts to date on building a national network
18 of science entrepreneurs, including convening stake-
19 holders, promoting national I-Corps courses, cata-
20 loguing best practices and encourage sharing be-
21 tween sites and institutions, and developing a men-
22 tor network.

23 (7) As the I-Corps Program continues to grow
24 and expand, the National Science Foundation should
25 maintain its focus on networking and information

1 sharing to ensure that innovators across the country
2 can learn from their peers and remain competitive.

3 (b) EXPANDED PARTICIPATION IN I-CORPS.—Section
4 601(c)(2) of the American Innovation and Competitive-
5 ness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–8(c)(2)) is amended by adding
6 at the end the following:

7 “(C) ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS.—

8 “(i) ELIGIBILITY.—The Director, in
9 consultation with relevant stakeholders, as
10 determined by the Director, which may in-
11 clude Federal agencies, I-Corps regional
12 nodes, universities, and public and private
13 entities engaged in technology transfer or
14 commercialization of technologies, shall
15 provide an option for participation in an I-
16 Corps Teams course by—

17 “(I) Small Business Innovation
18 Research Program grantees; and

19 “(II) other entities, as deter-
20 mined appropriate by the Director.

21 “(ii) COST OF PARTICIPATION.—The
22 cost of participation by a Small Business
23 Innovation Research Program grantee in
24 such course may be provided—

1 “(I) through I-Corps Teams
2 grants;

3 “(II) through funds awarded to
4 grantees under the Small Business In-
5 novation Research Program or the
6 Small Business Technology Transfer
7 Program;

8 “(III) by the grantor Federal
9 agency of the grantee using funds set
10 aside for the Small Business Innova-
11 tion Research Program under section
12 9(f)(1) of the Small Business Act (15
13 U.S.C. 638(f)(1));

14 “(IV) by the grantor Federal
15 agency of the grantee using funds set
16 aside for the Small Business Tech-
17 nology Transfer Program under sec-
18 tion 9(n)(1) of the Small Business
19 Act (15 U.S.C. 638(n)(1)); or

20 “(V) by the participating
21 teams.”.

22 (c) I-CORPS COURSE FOR COMMERCIALIZATION-
23 READY PARTICIPANTS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the I-Corps
25 program described in section 601(c) of the American

1 Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C.
2 1862s–8(c)), the Director shall develop an I-Corps
3 course offered by I-Corps regional nodes to support
4 commercialization-ready participants. Such course
5 shall include skills such as attracting investors, scal-
6 ing up a company, and building a brand.

7 (2) ENGAGEMENT WITH RELEVANT STAKE-
8 HOLDERS.—In developing the course under para-
9 graph (1), the Director may consult with the heads
10 of such Federal agencies, universities, and public
11 and private entities as the Director determines to be
12 appropriate.

13 (3) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—The course de-
14 veloped under paragraph (1) shall—

15 (A) support participants that have com-
16 pleted an I-Corps Teams course; and

17 (B) support participants that have made
18 the decision to take an innovation to market.

19 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
20 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
21 United States shall submit to Congress a report con-
22 taining an evaluation of the I-Corps program described in
23 section 601(c) of the American Innovation and Competi-
24 tiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–8(c)). Such evaluation
25 shall include an assessment of the effects of I-Corps on—

1 (1) the commercialization of Federally funded
2 research and development;

3 (2) the higher education system; and

4 (3) regional economies and the national econ-
5 omy.

6 (e) FUNDING.—

7 (1) FISCAL YEARS 2019 AND 2020.—Out of
8 amounts otherwise authorized for the National
9 Science Foundation, there is authorized to be appro-
10 priated a total of \$5,000,000 for fiscal years 2019
11 and 2020 to carry out the activities described in
12 subsection (c) and the amendment made by sub-
13 section (b).

14 (2) LIMITATION.—No additional funds are au-
15 thorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
16 and the amendments made by this section, and this
17 section and such amendments shall be carried out
18 using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

