AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–54

OFFERED BY MS. MOORE OF WISCONSIN

Page 1220, after line 11, insert the following:

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 26001. COVID-19 WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE RESEARCH PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Wastewater surveillance of COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving area of research that holds great promise as an early, cost-effective, unbiased community-level indicator of the presence of COVID-19.

(2) Use of wastewater surveillance to assess increasing trends in the occurrence of COVID-19, especially in early detection, has been successfully demonstrated, however, additional research may help shed light on other areas where this tool can be helpful in providing useful information to public health and elected officials responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

(b) GRANTS.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall establish a program to award research grants to eligible entities to investigate the
use of wastewater surveillance of the genetic signal of
SARS CoV-2 as an indicator of the distribution of
COVID-19 in communities.

(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Entities eligible to receive
a grant under this section include wastewater utilities (in-
cluding those that receive funding through a State water
pollution control revolving fund established pursuant to
title VI of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act), insti-
tutions of higher education, and public-private consortia
focused on water research and technology.

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (b),
the Administrator, in consultation with wastewater offi-
cials and public health officials, shall—

(1) develop recommendations for—

(A) sample plan design, sample collection,
and sample preservation; and

(B) consistent data collection practices and
documentation that would allow data com-
parability;

(2) support greater coordination in research to
help better understand and address knowledge gaps;

(3) support effective communication with the
public, public health officials, elected officials, waste-
water professionals, and the media, on the results of
any wastewater surveillance for tracking trends relating to COVID-19; and

(4) carry out such other activities as the Administrator determines appropriate.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.