

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-**

**13**

**OFFERED BY MR. SCHNEIDER OF ILLINOIS**

At the end of subtitle E of title VIII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 8 \_\_\_\_ . BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**

2 Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
3 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following new  
4 subsection:

5 “(h) **BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**—

6 “(1) **COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.**—In this  
7 subsection, the term ‘covered individual’ means—

8 “(A) a member of the Armed Forces, in-  
9 cluding the National Guard or Reserves;

10 “(B) an individual who is participating in  
11 the Transition Assistance Program established  
12 under section 1144 of title 10, United States  
13 Code;

14 “(C) an individual who—

15 “(i) served on active duty in any  
16 branch of the Armed Forces, including the  
17 National Guard or Reserves; and

1                   “(ii) was discharged or released from  
2                   such service under conditions other than  
3                   dishonorable; and

4                   “(D) a spouse or dependent of an indi-  
5                   vidual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or  
6                   (C).

7                   “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Beginning on the first  
8                   October 1 after the enactment of this subsection and  
9                   for the subsequent 4 fiscal years, the Administrator  
10                  shall carry out a program to be known as the ‘Boots  
11                  to Business Program’ to provide entrepreneurship  
12                  training to covered individuals.

13                  “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Boots to Busi-  
14                  ness Program are to—

15                         “(A) provide assistance and in-depth train-  
16                         ing to covered individuals interested in business  
17                         ownership; and

18                         “(B) provide covered individuals with the  
19                         tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to identify  
20                         a business opportunity, draft a business plan,  
21                         identify sources of capital, connect with local  
22                         resources for small business concerns, and start  
23                         up a small business concern.

24                         “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

1                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Boots to Busi-  
2                   ness Program may include—

3                   “(i) a presentation providing exposure  
4                   to the considerations involved in self-em-  
5                   ployment and ownership of a small busi-  
6                   ness concern;

7                   “(ii) an online, self-study course fo-  
8                   cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-  
9                   ship, the language of business, and the  
10                  considerations involved in self-employment  
11                  and ownership of a small business concern;

12                  “(iii) an in-person classroom instruc-  
13                  tion component providing an introduction  
14                  to the foundations of self employment and  
15                  ownership of a small business concern; and

16                  “(iv) in-depth training delivered  
17                  through online instruction, including an  
18                  online course that leads to the creation of  
19                  a business plan.

20                  “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-  
21                  trator may—

22                  “(i) collaborate with public and pri-  
23                  vate entities to develop course curricula for  
24                  the Boots to Business Program; and

1           “(ii) modify program components in  
2 coordination with entities participating in a  
3 Warriors in Transition program, as defined  
4 in section 738(e) of the National Defense  
5 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013  
6 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

7           “(C) USE OF RESOURCE PARTNERS.—

8           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
9 shall—

10           “(I) ensure that Veteran Busi-  
11 ness Outreach Centers regularly par-  
12 ticipate, on a nationwide basis, in the  
13 Boots to Business Program; and

14           “(II) to the maximum extent  
15 practicable, use a variety of other re-  
16 source partners and entities in admin-  
17 istering the Boots to Business Pro-  
18 gram.

19           “(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying  
20 out clause (i), the Administrator may make  
21 grants to Veteran Business Outreach Cen-  
22 ters, other resource partners, or other enti-  
23 ties to carry out components of the Boots  
24 to Business Program.

1           “(D) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF  
2 DEFENSE.—The Administrator shall make  
3 available to the Secretary of Defense informa-  
4 tion regarding the Boots to Business Program,  
5 including all course materials and outreach ma-  
6 terials related to the Boots to Business Pro-  
7 gram, for inclusion on the website of the De-  
8 partment of Defense relating to the Transition  
9 Assistance Program, in the Transition Assist-  
10 ance Program manual, and in other relevant  
11 materials available for distribution from the  
12 Secretary of Defense.

13           “(E) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AF-  
14 FAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of  
15 Veterans Affairs, the Administrator shall make  
16 available for distribution and display at local fa-  
17 cilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs  
18 outreach materials regarding the Boots to Busi-  
19 ness Program which shall, at a minimum—

20                   “(i) describe the Boots to Business  
21 Program and the services provided; and

22                   “(ii) include eligibility requirements  
23 for participating in the Boots to Business  
24 Program.

1           “(5) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
2           the date of the enactment of this subsection and  
3           every year thereafter, the Administrator shall submit  
4           to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-  
5           neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small  
6           Business of the House of Representatives a report  
7           on the performance and effectiveness of the Boots to  
8           Business Program, which may be included as part of  
9           another report submitted to such Committees by the  
10          Administrator, and which shall include—

11                   “(A) information regarding grants award-  
12                   ed under paragraph (4)(C);

13                   “(B) the total cost of the Boots to Busi-  
14                   ness Program;

15                   “(C) the number of program participants  
16                   using each component of the Boots to Business  
17                   Program;

18                   “(D) the completion rates for each compo-  
19                   nent of the Boots to Business Program;

20                   “(E) to the extent possible—

21                           “(i) the demographics of program par-  
22                           ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-  
23                           tionship to military, military occupational  
24                           specialty, and years of service of program  
25                           participants;

1           “(ii) the number of small business  
2 concerns formed or expanded with assist-  
3 ance under the Boots to Business Pro-  
4 gram;

5           “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-  
6 ness concerns receiving assistance under  
7 the Boots to Business Program;

8           “(iv) the number of jobs created with  
9 assistance under the Boots to Business  
10 Program;

11           “(v) the number of referrals to other  
12 resources and programs of the Administra-  
13 tion;

14           “(vi) the number of program partici-  
15 pants receiving financial assistance under  
16 loan programs of the Administration;

17           “(vii) the type and dollar amount of  
18 financial assistance received by program  
19 participants under any loan program of the  
20 Administration; and

21           “(viii) results of participant satisfac-  
22 tion surveys, including a summary of any  
23 comments received from program partici-  
24 pants;

1           “(F) an evaluation of the effectiveness of  
2 the Boots to Business Program in each region  
3 of the Administration during the most recent  
4 fiscal year;

5           “(G) an assessment of additional perform-  
6 ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-  
7 ness Program, as identified by the Adminis-  
8 trator;

9           “(H) any recommendations of the Admin-  
10 istrator for improvement of the Boots to Busi-  
11 ness Program, which may include expansion of  
12 the types of individuals who are covered individ-  
13 uals;

14           “(I) an explanation of how the Boots to  
15 Business Program has been integrated with  
16 other transition programs and related resources  
17 of the Administration and other Federal agen-  
18 cies; and

19           “(J) any additional information the Ad-  
20 ministrator determines necessary.”.

