

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-

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OFFERED BY MR. SCHNEIDER OF ILLINOIS

Page 615, after line 16, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 835. 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.”.

