AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 5

OFFERED BY ______________________

Page 270, line 6, amend the section header for section 3101 so that it reads “SENSE OF CONGRESS; PURPOSE”.

Page 270, after line 6, insert the following:

“(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

“(1) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

“(A) The number of public charter schools has dramatically increased in recent years. Between the 2008–2009 school year and the 2013–2014 school year, there was a 77 percent increase in the number of students attending public charter schools and a 39 percent increase in the number of schools.

“(B) Charter schools serve a very diverse population of students. Nationally, 57 percent of students enrolled in charter schools are minority students, while only 39 percent of stu-
dents in non-charter public schools are minority students.

“(C) For the 2014–2015 school year, there are more than 6700 public charter schools serving about 2.9 million students. This represents a 4 percent growth in the number of open charter schools, and a 14 percent increase in student enrollment from the 2013–2014 school year.

“(D) There are more than one million student names on charter school waiting lists.

“(E) Charter schools are open in areas where students need better education options, including areas that serve economically disadvantaged kids. Almost 50 percent of the students attending charter schools qualify for free or reduced priced lunch, a slightly larger percentage than non-charter public schools.

“(F) Charter schools serve students in all areas, from urban cities to rural towns through traditional brick and mortar schools, blended learning models, and online programs, giving parents across the Nation options to find the best learning environment for their children.
“(G) Charter schools give parents the opportunity to find the right place for their child to learn. Whether they are looking for digital learning, Montessori, or a more structured environment, charter schools provide a variety of education options for families.

“(H) Charter schools have strong accountability to parents and the community because they have to meet the same State academic accountability requirements as all other public schools, satisfy the terms of their charter with their authorizing authority, and satisfy parents who have selected the school for their children.

“(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that charter schools are a critical part of our education system in this Nation and the Congress believes we must support opening more quality charter schools to help students succeed in their future.

Page 270, line 7, strike “It” and insert the following:

“(b) PURPOSE.—It