

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117–**

**20**

**OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN OF MICHIGAN**

Page 175, after line 18, insert the following new title:

1 **TITLE XV—DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP**  
2 **AND MEDIA LITERACY**

3 **SEC. 1501. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) People in the United States rely on infor-  
6 mation from mass media, social media, and digital  
7 media to make decisions about all aspects of social,  
8 economic, and political life, including products and  
9 services consumption, employment, career and pro-  
10 fessional development, family and leisure choices,  
11 health and wellness, and democratic engagement.  
12 Ensuring that people in the United States possess  
13 the skills to make these informed decisions based on  
14 media begins early in life.

15 (2) Adversaries from Russia, China, and Iran  
16 are using information warfare to influence democ-  
17 racies across the world, and terrorist organizations  
18 often use digital communications to recruit mem-

1       bers. The United States can fight these influences  
2       by ensuring that citizens of the United States pos-  
3       sess the necessary skills to discern disinformation  
4       and misinformation and think critically about their  
5       digital activities.

6           (3) Influence campaigns by foreign and domes-  
7       tic groups reached tens of millions of voters during  
8       the 2016, 2018, and 2020 elections with racially and  
9       divisively targeted messages. The preservation of  
10      elections free of foreign influence is of utmost impor-  
11     tance, and therefore Congress must take steps to  
12     counter influence campaigns with media literacy.

13          (4) Media literacy education is critical to allow  
14      young people to make informed decisions about  
15      products and services, education, health and well-  
16      ness, and democratic decisions associated with public  
17      policy. Media literacy education must be inclusive  
18      and accessible for all students, including at-risk stu-  
19      dents and students with disabilities. Media literacy  
20      empowers young people and gives them the agency  
21      to make informed decisions about their future, ad-  
22      vertisements, the use of controlled substances, nutri-  
23      tion, and physical health. Equipping students with  
24      the skills to make informed decisions in these areas

1 contributes to the betterment of mental health and  
2 public health.

3 (5) A successful and inclusive media literacy  
4 program must be directed at students beginning in  
5 kindergarten and should continue throughout the  
6 completion of postsecondary education. Learning to  
7 critically analyze and create media is a lifelong pro-  
8 cess that can be developed by integrating media lit-  
9 eracy competencies into academic curriculum across  
10 content areas and disciplines.

11 (6) Media literacy also allows young people to  
12 develop the critical thinking skills that will help  
13 them become informed voters. The right to vote is  
14 a fundamental right afforded to United States citi-  
15 zens by the Constitution. The unimpeded free exer-  
16 cise of this right is essential to the functioning of  
17 our democracy. The process to protect our democ-  
18 racy begins with educating young people in the  
19 United States to ensure that the young people pos-  
20 sess the skills to engage in civic activities, engage  
21 with communities, and eventually become informed  
22 voters.

23 **SEC. 1502. GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.**

24 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1           (1) AT-RISK.—The term “at-risk” has the  
2 meaning given the term in section 1432 of the Ele-  
3 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
4 U.S.C. 6472).

5           (2) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms “child  
6 with a disability”, “local educational agency”, “State  
7 educational agency”, “specialized instructional sup-  
8 port personnel”, and “universal design for learning”  
9 have the meanings given those terms in section 8101  
10 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
11 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

12           (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
13 ty” means—

14                   (A) a State educational agency; or

15                   (B) a local educational agency.

16           (4) DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP.—The term “digital  
17 citizenship” means the ability to—

18                   (A) safely, responsibly, and ethically use  
19 communication technologies and digital infor-  
20 mation technology tools and platforms;

21                   (B) create and share media content using  
22 principles of social and civic responsibility and  
23 with awareness of the legal and ethical issues  
24 involved; and

1 (C) participate in the political, economic,  
2 social, and cultural aspects of life related to  
3 technology, communications, and the digital  
4 world by consuming and creating digital con-  
5 tent, including media.

6 (5) MEDIA LITERACY.—The term “media lit-  
7 eracy” means the ability to—

8 (A) access relevant and accurate informa-  
9 tion through media in a variety of forms;

10 (B) critically analyze media content and  
11 the influences of different forms of media;

12 (C) evaluate the comprehensiveness, rel-  
13 evance, credibility, authority, and accuracy of  
14 information;

15 (D) make educated decisions based on in-  
16 formation obtained from media and digital  
17 sources;

18 (E) operate various forms of technology  
19 and digital tools; and

20 (F) reflect on how the use of media and  
21 technology may affect private and public life.

22 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
23 the Secretary of Education.

24 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
25 program to promote media literacy, through which the

1 Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities to enable  
2 those eligible entities to carry out the activities described  
3 in this subsection (d).

4 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that desires a  
5 grant under this section shall submit an application to the  
6 Secretary at such time and in such manner as the Sec-  
7 retary may require, including, at a minimum—

8 (1) a description of the activities the eligible en-  
9 tity intends to carry out with the grant funds;

10 (2) an estimate of the costs associated with  
11 such activities; and

12 (3) such other information and assurances as  
13 the Secretary may require.

14 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

15 (1) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that  
17 is a State educational agency receiving a grant  
18 under this title shall use grant funds to carry  
19 out one or more of the following activities:

20 (i) Creating and supporting a media  
21 literacy advisory council to—

22 (I) provide recommendations  
23 about digital citizenship and media lit-  
24 eracy guidelines;

1 (II) identify barriers and oppor-  
2 tunities for implementing media lit-  
3 eracy in kindergarten through grade  
4 12 in public schools in the State for  
5 all students, including students who  
6 are children with disabilities;

7 (III) identify best practices and  
8 effective models for media literacy ed-  
9 ucation, including incorporating uni-  
10 versal design for learning and pro-  
11 viding additional accommodations for  
12 students who are children with dis-  
13 abilities when needed;

14 (IV) identify existing models of  
15 curriculum and existing policies in dif-  
16 ferent States that are aimed at over-  
17 coming the barriers identified in sub-  
18 clause (II);

19 (V) gather data or conduct re-  
20 search to assess the media literacy  
21 and digital citizenship competencies of  
22 students, teachers, or specialized in-  
23 structional support personnel;

24 (VI) submit a report to the State  
25 educational agency containing findings

1 and recommendations regarding the  
2 items identified under this clause; and  
3 (VII) annually update those find-  
4 ings and recommendations.

5 (ii) Assisting local educational agen-  
6 cies in the development of units of instruc-  
7 tion on media literacy, either as a new sub-  
8 ject or as a part of the existing curriculum.

9 (iii) Assisting local agencies in devel-  
10 oping means of evaluating student learning  
11 in media literacy.

12 (iv) Assisting local agencies in devel-  
13 oping or providing professional develop-  
14 ment for teachers that relates to media lit-  
15 eracy.

16 (B) MEDIA LITERACY ADVISORY COUN-  
17 CIL.—

18 (i) MEMBERS.—The Media Literacy  
19 Advisory Council described in subpara-  
20 graph (A)(i) shall include experts in media  
21 literacy, including academic experts, indi-  
22 viduals from nonprofit organizations, indi-  
23 viduals with expertise in education for stu-  
24 dents who are children with disabilities,  
25 teachers, librarians, representatives from



1 parent organizations, educators, adminis-  
2 trators, students, and other stakeholders.

3 (ii) DIVERSITY OF REPRESENTA-  
4 TION.—Such membership shall include rep-  
5 resentation from rural and urban local  
6 educational agencies, small and large  
7 schools, high- and low-resource schools,  
8 teachers of at-risk students and children  
9 with disabilities, and schools in commu-  
10 nities from diverse racial and ethnic back-  
11 grounds.

12 (C) GUIDELINES.—

13 (i) IN GENERAL.—A State educational  
14 agency that creates a media literacy advi-  
15 sory council under subparagraph (A)(i)  
16 shall, only after consideration of the find-  
17 ings and recommendations described in  
18 subparagraph (A)(i)(I) and (VI), develop  
19 and publish on the State educational agen-  
20 cy website inclusive digital citizenship and  
21 media literacy guidelines for students in  
22 kindergarten through grade 12 in public  
23 schools in the State.

24 (ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidelines  
25 described in clause (i) shall be designed to

1 develop media literacy and digital citizen-  
2 ship competencies by promoting stu-  
3 dents’—

4 (I) research and information flu-  
5 ency;

6 (II) critical thinking and problem  
7 solving skills;

8 (III) technology operations and  
9 concepts;

10 (IV) information and techno-  
11 logical literacy;

12 (V) concepts of media representa-  
13 tion and stereotyping;

14 (VI) understanding of explicit  
15 and implicit media messages;

16 (VII) understanding of values  
17 and points of view that are included  
18 and excluded in media content;

19 (VIII) understanding of how  
20 media may influence ideas and behav-  
21 iors;

22 (IX) understanding of the impor-  
23 tance of obtaining information from  
24 multiple media sources and evaluating  
25 sources for quality;

- 1 (X) understanding how informa-  
2 tion on digital platforms can be al-  
3 tered through algorithms, editing, and  
4 augmented reality; and  
5 (XI) ability to create media in  
6 civically and socially responsible ways.

7 (2) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—An eligi-  
8 ble entity that is a local educational agency receiving  
9 a grant under this title shall use grant funds to  
10 carry out one or more of the following activities:

11 (A) Incorporating digital citizenship and  
12 media literacy into the existing curriculum  
13 (across content and disciplinary areas) or estab-  
14 lishing new educational opportunities to learn  
15 about media literacy.

16 (B) Employing specialized instructional  
17 support personnel, such as a librarian or other  
18 personnel who can provide instructional services  
19 in media literacy.

20 (C) Providing funding to educators who  
21 are carrying out activities described in subpara-  
22 graph (A) to further their professional develop-  
23 ment in relation to media literacy, including  
24 funding for traveling to media literacy con-

1           ferences to share knowledge with regional and  
2           national stakeholders.

3           (D) Other activities, including student led  
4           efforts, to support, develop, or promote the im-  
5           plementation of media literacy education pro-  
6           grams, policies, teacher preparation, cur-  
7           riculum, or standards.

8           (e) REPORTING.—

9           (1) REPORTS BY ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Not  
10          later than 1 year after the date the eligible entity re-  
11          ceives grant funds under this title, each eligible enti-  
12          ty shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a re-  
13          port describing the activities the eligible entity car-  
14          ried out using grant funds and the effectiveness of  
15          those activities.

16          (2) REPORT BY THE SECRETARY.—Not later  
17          than 90 days after the Secretary receives the report  
18          described in paragraph (1) from the last eligible en-  
19          tity to submit such a report, the Secretary shall pre-  
20          pare and submit a report to Congress describing the  
21          activities carried out under this title and the effec-  
22          tiveness of those activities.

23   **SEC. 1503. FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

24          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
25          Federal Advisory Council to assist the Secretary in evalu-

1 ating and awarding grants under this section 1502 and  
2 developing and making available to States and local edu-  
3 cational agencies evidence-based model curricula and  
4 standards for media literacy education.

5 (b) COMPOSITION.—The Advisory Council shall—

6 (1) include representation from rural and urban  
7 local educational agencies, small and large schools,  
8 high- and low-resource schools, teachers of children  
9 with disabilities, and schools in communities from  
10 diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds; and

11 (2) be composed of experts in media literacy  
12 and digital citizenship, including academic experts,  
13 individuals from nonprofit organizations, individuals  
14 with expertise in education for at-risk students, and  
15 students who are children with disabilities, teachers,  
16 librarians, representatives from parent associations,  
17 educators, administrators, students, and other stake-  
18 holders.

19 **SEC. 1504. GAO STUDY.**

20 Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this  
21 Act, the Government Accountability Office shall submit a  
22 report to Congress on—

23 (1) media literacy and digital citizenship com-  
24 petencies among elementary school and secondary  
25 school students in diverse local educational agencies,

1 including rural and urban schools, small and large  
2 schools, high- and low-resource schools, and schools  
3 in communities from diverse racial and ethnic back-  
4 grounds;

5 (2) media literacy and digital citizenship edu-  
6 cation programs at the State and local levels, includ-  
7 ing across content and disciplinary areas; and

8 (3) the impact of media literacy and digital citi-  
9 zenship education on student outcomes, including  
10 academic performance, health and well-being, and  
11 civic engagement.

12 **SEC. 1505. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

13 It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should  
14 establish and maintain a list of eligible entities that receive  
15 a grant under this title, and individuals designated by  
16 those eligible entities as participating individuals. The  
17 Secretary should make that list available to those eligible  
18 entities and participating individuals in order to promote  
19 communication and further exchange of information re-  
20 garding sound digital citizenship and media literacy prac-  
21 tices among recipients of a grant under this title.

1 **SEC. 1506. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2       There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
3 this title \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022, 2024,  
4 and 2026.

