

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-
76
OFFERED BY MRS. WATSON COLEMAN OF NEW
JERSEY**

Add at the end the following new section:

1 **SEC. ____ . SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE FAILURE OF THE**
2 **WAR ON DRUGS.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that—

4 (1) the War on Drugs has failed to achieve its
5 goal of reducing drug use;

6 (2) the War on Drugs has created conditions in
7 the United States that has allowed the opioid epi-
8 demic to be as deadly as it is;

9 (3) the War on Drugs is a racially charged pol-
10 icy that has led to the mass incarceration of millions
11 of Americans, disproportionately affecting commu-
12 nities of color, stigmatized these communities as the
13 cause of the drug problem, and has economically, po-
14 litically, and socially crippled these communities for
15 decades;

16 (4) in order to help those impacted, drug use
17 has to be seen as a health issue and not a criminal
18 issue;

1 (5) Congress should seek to hereby reconsider
2 all laws associated and consistent with the War on
3 Drugs, and prioritizes effective, evidence-based
4 health policy solutions for individuals and commu-
5 nities suffering from addiction;

6 (6) Congress should enact civil remedies and re-
7 storative justice for any individual who has been in-
8 carcerated or otherwise punished through the Fed-
9 eral criminal justice system due to laws associated
10 and consistent with the War on Drugs;

11 (7) Congress affirms that all individuals suf-
12 fering from the disease of addiction be treated hu-
13 manely, with equity and respect as all people strug-
14 gling with any other health matter; and

15 (8) Congress hereby apologizes to the individ-
16 uals and communities harmed through the War on
17 Drugs and acknowledges that actions by this body
18 have demonized and criminalized addiction for more
19 than 80 years instead of accurately treating it as a
20 health concern.

