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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To waive, for 1 year, the cost sharing requirements of the Hollings
Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STEVENS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To waive, for 1 year, the cost sharing requirements of the
Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and for
other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “MEP Crisis Response
5 Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. ONE-YEAR WAIVER OF COST SHARING REQUIRE-**
2 **MENTS OF HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EX-**
3 **TENSION PARTNERSHIP.**

4 (a) DEFINITION OF CENTER.—In this section, the
5 term “Center” has the meaning given such term in section
6 25(a) of the National Institute of Standards and Tech-
7 nology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(a)).

8 (b) TEMPORARY WAIVER.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
10 graph (2) of this subsection, paragraph (2) of sec-
11 tion 25(e) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(e)) shall not
12 apply during the 1-year period beginning on the date
13 of the enactment of this Act.

14 (2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) of this sub-
15 section shall not apply to the extent that a Center
16 receives funding from a State that is conditioned
17 upon the application of a Federal cost sharing re-
18 quirement to the Center.

19 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
21 appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce
22 \$146,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 to support Cen-
23 ters.

24 (2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts
25 appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall sup-
26 plement and not supplant amounts already appro-

1 priated or otherwise made available to support Cen-
2 ters in fiscal year 2020.

3 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) the centers of the Hollings Manufacturing
6 Extension Partnership are front-line resources for
7 manufacturers to improve supply chain resilience,
8 workforce readiness, and technological expertise; and

9 (2) such Centers are positioned to mitigate
10 damage and accelerate recovery from the National
11 public health and economic crisis caused by COVID—
12 19.