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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

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SEC. 2. ONE-YEAR WAIVER OF COST SHARING REQUIREMENTS OF HOLLINGS MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP.

(a) DEFINITION OF CENTER.—In this section, the term "Center" has the meaning given such term in section 25(a) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(a)).

(b) TEMPORARY WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, paragraph (2) of section 25(e) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(e)) shall not apply during the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to the extent that a Center receives funding from a State that is conditioned upon the application of a Federal cost sharing requirement to the Center.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce $146,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 to support Centers.

(2) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) shall supplement and not supplant amounts already appro-
priated or otherwise made available to support Cen-
ters in fiscal year 2020.

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

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

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