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AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4137, AS REPORTED

OFFERED BY MR. RYAN OF OHIO and Mr. Altmire of Pennsylvania

At the end of title VIII of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 814. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM FOR COURSE MATERIAL RENTAL.

(a) PILOT GRANT PROGRAM.—From the amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (e), the Secretary shall make grants on a competitive basis to not more than 10 institutions of higher education to support pilot programs that expand the services of bookstores to provide the option for students to rent course materials in order to achieve savings for students.

(b) APPLICATION.—An institution of higher education that desires to obtain a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such form, and containing or accompanied by such information, agreements, and assurances as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—The funds made available by a grant under this section may be used for—

(1) purchase of course materials that the entity will make available by rent to students;

1 (2) any equipment or software necessary for the
2 conduct of a rental program;
3 (3) hiring staff needed for the conduct of a
4 rental program, with priority given to hiring enrolled
5 undergraduate students; and
6 (4) building or acquiring extra storage space
7 dedicated to course materials for rent.
8 (d) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—
9 (1) EVALUATIONS BY RECIPIENTS.—After a pe-
10 riod of time to be determined by the Secretary, each
11 institution of higher education that receives a grant
12 under this section shall submit a report to the Sec-
13 retary on the effectiveness of their rental programs
14 in reducing textbook costs for students.
15 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
16 September 30, 2010, the Secretary shall submit a
17 report to Congress on the effectiveness of the text-
18 book rental pilot programs under this section, and
19 identify the best practices developed in such pilot
20 programs. Such report shall contain an estimate by
21 the Secretary of the savings achieved by students
22 who participate in such pilot programs.
23 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
25 $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2009 and 2010.