

**AMENDMENT TO THE COMMITTEE PRINT  
OFFERED BY MR. EHLERS OF MICHIGAN**

**Distance education evaluation**

After section 2132 of the Committee Print, insert the following new section (and redesignate the succeeding section accordingly):

1 **SEC. 2133. INDEPENDENT EVALUATION OF DISTANCE EDU-**  
2 **CATION PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.—The Secretary of  
4 Education shall enter into an agreement with the National  
5 Academy of Sciences to conduct a scientifically correct and  
6 statistically valid evaluation of the quality of distance edu-  
7 cation programs, as compared to campus-based education  
8 programs, at institutions of higher education. Such eval-  
9 uation shall include—

10 (1) identification of the elements by which the  
11 quality of distance education, as compared to cam-  
12 pus-based education, can be assessed, including ele-  
13 ments such as subject matter, interactivity, and stu-  
14 dent outcomes;

15 (2) identification of distance and campus-based  
16 education program success, with respect to student



1 achievement, in relation to the mission of the insti-  
2 tution of higher education; and

3 (3) identification of the types of students (in-  
4 cluding classification of types of students based on  
5 student age) who most benefit from distance edu-  
6 cation programs, the types of students who most  
7 benefit from campus-based education programs, and  
8 the types of students who do not benefit from dis-  
9 tance education programs, by assessing elements in-  
10 cluding access to higher education, job placement  
11 rates, undergraduate graduation rates, and graduate  
12 and professional degree attainment rates.

13 (b) SCOPE.—The National Academy of Sciences shall  
14 select for participation in the evaluation under subsection  
15 (a) a diverse group of institutions of higher education with  
16 respect to size, mission, and geographic distribution.

17 (c) INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTS.—The agreement  
18 under subsection (a) shall require that the National Acad-  
19 emy of Sciences submit to the Secretary of Education, the  
20 Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions of  
21 the Senate, and the Committee on Education and the  
22 Workforce of the House of Representatives—

23 (1) an interim report regarding the evaluation  
24 under subsection (a) not later than December 31,  
25 2007; and



1           (2) a final report regarding such evaluation not  
2           later than December 31, 2009.

