AMENDMENT NO. _______ Calendar No. _______

Purpose: To amend title V to provide for education innovation and research.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. _______

To reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that every child achieves.

Referred to the Committee on ______ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. BENNET (for himself and Mr. HATCH)

Viz:

On page 422, between lines 12 and 13, insert the following:

SEC. 5004. EDUCATION INNOVATION AND RESEARCH.

After part B of title V, as redesignated under section 5001, insert the following:

"PART C—EDUCATION INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

"SEC. 5301. GRANTS FOR EDUCATION INNOVATION AND RESEARCH.

"(a) Program Authorized.—From funds appropriated under subsection (e), the Secretary shall make
grants to eligible entities for the development, implement-

tation, replication, or scaling and rigorous testing of entre-

preneurial, evidence-based, field-initiated innovations to

improve student achievement and attainment for high-

need students, including—

“(1) early-phase grants to fund the develop-

ment, implementation, and feasibility testing of a

program that prior research suggests has promise,

for the purpose of determining whether the program

can successfully improve student achievement or at-

tainment for high-needs students;

“(2) mid-phase grants to fund implementation

and a rigorous evaluation of a program that has

been successfully implemented under an early-phase

grant or other effort meeting similar criteria, for the

purpose of measuring the program’s impact and cost

effectiveness, if possible using existing administra-

tive data; or

“(3) expansion grants to fund implementation

and a rigorous replication evaluation of a program

that has been found to produce sizable, important

impacts under a mid-phase grant or other effort

meeting similar criteria, for the purpose of deter-

mining whether such impacts can be successfully re-

produced and sustained over time, and identifying
the conditions in which the program is most effective.

“(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this section, the term eligible entity means any of the following:

“(1) A local educational agency.

“(2) A State educational agency.

“(3) A consortium of States educational agencies or local educational agencies.

“(4) A State educational agency or a local educational agency, in partnership with—

“(A) A nonprofit organization.

“(B) A small business.

“(C) A charter management organization.

“(D) An educational service agency.

“(E) An institution of higher education.

“(c) RURAL AREAS.—In awarding grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that not less than 25 percent of the funds for any fiscal year are awarded for projects that meet both of the following requirements:

“(1) The grantee is—

“(A) a local educational agency with an urban-centric district locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43, as determined by the Secretary;

“(B) a consortium of such local educational agencies; or
“(C) an educational service agency or a nonprofit organization in partnership with such local educational agencies.

“(2) A majority of the schools to be served by the project are designated with a school locale code of 32, 33, 41, 42, or 43, or a combination of such codes, as determined by the Secretary.

“(d) MATCHING FUNDS.—In order to receive a grant under subsection (a), an eligible entity shall demonstrate that the eligible entity will provide matching funds in an amount equal to 10 percent of the funds provided under a grant under this part, except that the Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement, on a case-by-case basis, upon a showing of exceptional circumstances, such as—

“(1) the difficulty of raising matching funds for a project to serve a rural area;

“(2) the difficulty of raising matching funds in areas with a concentration of local educational agencies or schools with a high percentage of students aged 5 through 17—

“(A) who are in poverty, as counted in the most recent census data approved by the Secretary;
“(B) who are eligible for a free or reduced priced lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act;

“(C) whose families receive assistance under the State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.); or

“(D) who are eligible to receive medical assistance under the Medicaid program; and

“(3) the difficulty of raising funds in designated tribal areas.

“(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2021.”