

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4435
OFFERED BY MR. HOLT OF NEW JERSEY**

At the end of subtitle I of title V of division A, add the following:

1 **SEC. 5___ . STUDY ON IMPACT OF FINANCIAL STRESS ON**
2 **MILITARY SUICIDE.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) In 2013, at least 289 active-duty members
5 of the military died by suicide, which is an unaccept-
6 ably high toll.

7 (2) Military personnel may face unique financial
8 stress in the course of their service, including the ex-
9 pense and complexity of frequent relocations. Mili-
10 tary personnel may also endure high-stress experi-
11 ences that increase the risk of divorce, which can be
12 financially ruinous. Further, military personnel may
13 experience post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain
14 injuries that may diminish their capability to man-
15 age their personal finances effectively.

16 (3) Personal financial stress may contribute to
17 the epidemic of suicide among military personnel.

1 (4) Financial stress and anxiety can be de-
2 creased through appropriate, high-quality financial
3 counseling and planning.

4 (5) Personal financial managers employed by
5 the military generally provide only financial edu-
6 cation, not comprehensive financial planning.

7 (6) In 2012, military personnel had 1.8 million
8 advisory encounters with financial planning profes-
9 sionals that lasted less than 15 minutes, which is an
10 insufficient period of time to provide high-quality fi-
11 nancial guidance.

12 (7) Personal financial problems, including high
13 personal indebtedness and poor credit, create a secu-
14 rity risk that may lead to the withdrawal of a service
15 member's security clearance. Such withdrawal may
16 cause a service member to lose his or her job, which
17 may amplify existing financial stress and increase
18 the service member's risk of suicide.

19 (b) STUDY.—Not later than one year after the date
20 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
21 United States shall issue a report to Congress that in-
22 cludes—

23 (1) an analysis of the effects of financial stress
24 on the mental health of military personnel and vet-

1 erans, including the effect of financial stress on sui-
2 cide risk;

3 (2) an analysis of—

4 (A) the ability of military personnel and
5 veterans to receive adequate, unbiased, profes-
6 sional, personalized, evidence-based, comprehen-
7 sive, useful, ongoing, and cost-effective financial
8 planning, financial counseling, financial ther-
9 apy, financial coaching, and financial education;

10 (B) potential new or additional sources of
11 such advice, counseling, therapy, coaching, or
12 education for military personnel and veterans;
13 and

14 (C) any obstacles that may prevent mili-
15 tary personnel and veterans from seeking such
16 advice, counseling, therapy, coaching, or edu-
17 cation;

18 (3) an analysis of whether unscrupulous, inac-
19 curate, or insufficient financial advice or financial
20 education is contributing to financial stress among
21 military personnel and veterans;

22 (4) an analysis of whether military personnel
23 and veterans affected by post-traumatic stress, trau-
24 matic brain injuries, or other combat-related stress
25 or injuries face particular difficulties in managing

1 their finances effectively, and whether the Depart-
2 ment of Defense and the Department of Veterans
3 Affairs are effectively meeting their particular needs;

4 (5) an analysis of—

5 (A) the number of military personnel
6 whose security clearances have been withdrawn
7 due partly or entirely to personal financial
8 problems;

9 (B) the consequences of such withdrawal
10 on the financial well-being and mental health of
11 service members; and

12 (C) whether the Department of Defense
13 provides effective financial planning and mental
14 health services to military personnel who lose or
15 may be at risk of losing their security clear-
16 ances due to their personal financial problems;

17 (6) an analysis of data related to life insurance,
18 death gratuities, and related payments in cases in-
19 volving suicides of military personnel;

20 (7) an analysis of whether programs that pro-
21 vide financial planning, financial counseling, finan-
22 cial therapy, financial coaching, and financial edu-
23 cation to military personnel and veterans at the De-
24 partment of Defense, the Consumer Financial Pro-

1 tection Bureau, and the Department of Veterans Af-
2 fairs are coordinated as effectively as possible;

3 (8) recommendations for how the Department
4 of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs
5 can provide better financial planning, financial coun-
6 seling, financial therapy, financial coaching, and fi-
7 nancial education to military personnel and veterans,
8 with a particular focus on—

9 (A) improving financial outcomes;

10 (B) providing evidence-based programs,
11 services, and education;

12 (C) improving the credit history and reduc-
13 ing the financial stress of military personnel;

14 (D) increasing connections between the
15 mental health professionals and financial plan-
16 ning professionals who serve military personnel;

17 (E) aiding military personnel who have ex-
18 perienced post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain
19 injuries, or other combat-related stress or inju-
20 ries;

21 (F) aiding military personnel whose secu-
22 rity clearances are withdrawn or may be with-
23 drawn in the future due to their personal finan-
24 cial problems;

1 (G) preventing financial abuses against
2 military personnel and veterans;

3 (H) promoting cooperation among pro-
4 grams at various Federal agencies that provide
5 financial planning, financial counseling, finan-
6 cial therapy, financial coaching, or financial
7 education to military personnel and veterans;
8 and

9 (I) preventing suicide among military per-
10 sonnel and veterans.

11 (c) DEFINITION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL.—For
12 purposes of this section, the term “military personnel”
13 shall include any active duty member of the Armed Forces
14 of the United States, as well as any member of the Guard
15 or Reserve.

