

**AMENDMENT TO**  
**RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-33**  
**OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON OF TEXAS**

At the end of subtitle J of title V, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 5\_\_\_ . PILOT PROGRAM OF ANONYMOUS NONMEDICAL**  
2 **COUNSELING FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS**  
3 **FORCES.**

4 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—In addition to authorities  
5 under sections 167 and 1788a of title 10, United States  
6 Code, the Commander of the United States Special Oper-  
7 ations Command shall carry out a pilot program to provide  
8 anonymous nonmedical counseling services to members of  
9 the special operations forces and families of such members  
10 using a novel anonymous telehealth platform. The Com-  
11 mander shall ensure that counseling services under the  
12 pilot program are available to eligible individuals described  
13 in subsection (c) beginning not later than June 1, 2027.

14 (b) USE OF EXISTING PERSONNEL.—

15 (1) DESIGNATION.—The Commander shall des-  
16 ignate counselors and clinicians employed by, con-  
17 tracted to, or assigned to the United States Special  
18 Operations Command or its component commands,

1 including counselors and clinicians supporting the  
2 Preservation of the Force and Family program, to  
3 provide services under the pilot program. Counseling  
4 hours dedicated to the pilot program shall be equiva-  
5 lent to not less than 20 percent of the total coun-  
6 seling capacity supporting the Preservation of the  
7 Force and Family program.

8 (2) CONTINUATION OF EXISTING DUTIES.—The  
9 Commander shall ensure that—

10 (A) designated personnel under paragraph

11 (1) continue to perform the existing assigned  
12 duties of the personnel; and

13 (B) the pilot program and the anonymous  
14 telehealth platform serve as a supplemental in-  
15 take pathway for participating counselors.

16 (3) GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE OF SERVICE.—A coun-  
17 selor or clinician designated under paragraph (1)  
18 may provide services under the pilot program to any  
19 eligible individual described in subsection (c), re-  
20 gardless of the installation, duty station, or geo-  
21 graphic location of the counselor, clinician, or eligi-  
22 ble individual.

23 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—The Commander shall ensure that  
24 the pilot program is available to all individuals currently  
25 or previously assigned to, supporting, or augmenting the

1 United States Special Operations Command or its compo-  
2 nent commands, and to the spouses and dependents (as  
3 defined in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code)  
4 of such individuals.

5 (d) STANDARD OF CARE.—Services under the pilot  
6 program shall consist of nonmedical counseling similar in  
7 type and scope to the nonmedical counseling provided  
8 under the Department of Defense Military and Family  
9 Life Counseling Program under section 1781(d) of title  
10 10, United States Code, including with respect to charting  
11 and recordkeeping practices and the cross-jurisdictional  
12 authorities described in paragraph (2) of such section, ex-  
13 cept that services under the pilot program shall be deliv-  
14 ered exclusively through an anonymous telehealth plat-  
15 form.

16 (e) ANONYMITY.—

17 (1) PLATFORM.—The Commander shall ensure  
18 that—

19 (A) the anonymous telehealth platform  
20 does not collect or retain personally identifiable  
21 information regarding any participant; and

22 (B) session content transmitted during the  
23 course of services is protected by end-to-end  
24 encryption, such that the platform vendor can-

1 not access such content, and is not retained on  
2 the platform after the session.

3 (2) PARTICIPANT DISCLOSURE.—A participant  
4 may voluntarily disclose identifying information in  
5 the course of receiving services but is not required  
6 to do so as a condition of participation.

7 (3) COUNSELOR CONDUCT.—A counselor pro-  
8 viding services under the pilot program may not re-  
9 quest, require, or otherwise solicit personally identi-  
10 fiable information from a participant, except as nec-  
11 essary to act on a duty arising under applicable Fed-  
12 eral or State law in cases involving imminent risk of  
13 harm.

14 (4) USE OF INFORMATION.—Participation in  
15 the pilot program, and any information disclosed by  
16 a participant during services, shall not result in  
17 entry into medical records, command notification, or  
18 referral, except as required to discharge a duty de-  
19 scribed in paragraph (3).

20 (f) INFORMATION SECURITY.—The Chief Informa-  
21 tion Officer of the Department of Defense shall establish  
22 alternative information security requirements for the  
23 anonymous telehealth platform used to deliver services  
24 under the pilot program, reflecting the anonymous design  
25 of the platform and the limited duration of the pilot pro-

1 gram. Such requirements shall not include authorization  
2 under the Federal Risk and Authorization Management  
3 Program.

4 (g) FUNDING.—No additional funds are authorized  
5 to be appropriated to carry out the pilot program.

6 (h) REPORTS.—Not later than February 1 of each  
7 year following the date counseling services first become  
8 available under the pilot program, the Commander shall  
9 submit to the congressional defense committees an annual  
10 report evaluating utilization, impact on existing counseling  
11 capacity, cost considerations, readiness implications, and  
12 recommendations for continuation or expansion.

13 (i) SUNSET.—The authority under this section termi-  
14 nates on September 30, 2029, except that the Commander  
15 may extend the pilot program for up to two additional fis-  
16 cal years upon notification to the congressional defense  
17 committees.

