

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM PRINT 114–51
OFFERED BY MR. THORNBERRY OF TEXAS

At the end of title V (page 173, after line 2), add
the following new section:

1 **SEC. 599A. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ROLE OF ALL-**
2 **VOLUNTEER ARMED FORCES.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

5 (1) The United States eliminated the draft in
6 favor of an all-volunteer force over four decades ago.

7 (2) The reasons for the change, as highlighted
8 by the Gates Commission, included—

9 (A) widespread opposition to the Vietnam
10 Conflict;

11 (B) increased indiscipline by military draft-
12 ees; and

13 (C) the belief of military leadership that a
14 draft was no longer necessary to maintain read-
15 iness.

16 (3) After transitioning to an all-volunteer
17 Armed Forces, the eligible population of potential re-
18 cruits continued to grow as the military departments
19 began actively recruiting both men and women, and

1 as opportunities for female members of the Armed
2 Forces continued to expand.

3 (4) Despite the elimination of the draft, Con-
4 gress recognized the continuing need for a registra-
5 tion system that would assist in the event of a mass
6 mobilization of combat forces, and therefore estab-
7 lished the Military Selective Service System.

8 (5) The Department of Defense has heretofore
9 failed to provide a meaningful analysis of the impact
10 that the opening of military occupational specialties
11 previously closed to female members of the Armed
12 Forces will have on the Military Selective Service
13 System, despite a legal requirement to do so.

14 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
15 gress that—

16 (1) the expanded role of women in the Armed
17 Forces has been vital to the continued success of the
18 all-volunteer Armed Forces;

19 (2) the recent opening by the Secretary of De-
20 fense of all military occupational specialties pre-
21 viously closed to female members of the Armed
22 Forces has further expanded the role of women in
23 the Armed Forces; and

1 (3) in light of these significant changes, a com-
2 prehensive review of the Military Selective Service
3 System is warranted, including—

4 (A) evaluating the purpose of the Military
5 Selective Service System;

6 (B) determining whether the Military Se-
7 lective Service System should be preserved,
8 modified, or eliminated; and

9 (C) if retained, determining whether the
10 registration requirement should be expanded to
11 include women.

