

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

119-33

OFFERED BY MR. BEYER OF VIRGINIA

At the end of subtitle A of title XVII, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 17__ . PILOT PROGRAM ON ASSISTING VETERANS**
2 **AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO EXPERIENCE IN-**
3 **TIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, FAMILY VIO-**
4 **LENCE, OR SEXUAL ASSAULT.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
6 shall carry out a two-year pilot program to provide assist-
7 ance for veterans and covered family members of veterans
8 who have experienced or are experiencing intimate partner
9 violence, family violence, or sexual assault in—

10 (1) accessing benefits from the Department of
11 Veterans Affairs, including coordinating access to
12 medical treatment centers, housing assistance, and
13 other benefits from the Department; and

14 (2) connecting such veterans and covered family
15 members with appropriate community-based re-
16 sources.

1 (b) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary shall carry out
2 the pilot program under subsection (a) in collaboration
3 with—

4 (1) intimate partner violence shelters and pro-
5 grams;

6 (2) rape crisis centers;

7 (3) State intimate partner violence and sexual
8 assault coalitions; and

9 (4) such other health care or other service pro-
10 viders that serve intimate partner violence, family vi-
11 olence, or sexual assault victims as determined by
12 the Secretary, particularly those providing emer-
13 gency services or housing assistance.

14 (c) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the
15 pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary may
16 conduct the following activities:

17 (1) Training for community-based intimate
18 partner violence or sexual assault service providers
19 on—

20 (A) identifying veterans and covered family
21 members who have been victims of, or are cur-
22 rently experiencing, intimate partner violence,
23 family violence, or sexual assault;

24 (B) coordinating with local service pro-
25 viders of the Department; and

1 (C) connecting veterans and covered family
2 members with appropriate housing, mental
3 health, medical, and other financial assistance
4 or benefits from the Department.

5 (2) The provision of assistance to service pro-
6 viders to ensure access of veterans and their family
7 members to intimate partner violence and sexual as-
8 sault emergency services, particularly in underserved
9 areas, including services for Native American vet-
10 erans (as defined in section 3765 of title 38, United
11 States Code).

12 (3) Such other outreach and assistance as the
13 Secretary determines necessary for the provision of
14 assistance under the pilot program.

15 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the con-
16 clusion of the pilot program under subsection (a), the Sec-
17 retary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot pro-
18 gram.

19 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) The term “close personal relationships”
21 means any of the following:

22 (A) A relationship between married
23 spouses.

24 (B) A relationship between common-law
25 spouses.

1 (C) A relationship between civil union
2 spouses.

3 (D) A relationship between domestic part-
4 ners.

5 (E) A relationship between dating part-
6 ners.

7 (F) A relationship between ongoing sexual
8 partners.

9 (2) The term “covered family member” means,
10 with respect to an individual, the child, intimate
11 partner, or parent of the individual with whom the
12 individual resides.

13 (3) The term “family violence” means any act
14 or threatened act of violence, including any forceful
15 detention of an individual, that—

16 (A) results or threatens to result in phys-
17 ical injury; and

18 (B) is committed by a person against an-
19 other individual (including an elderly individual)
20 to or with whom such person—

21 (i) is related by blood;

22 (ii) is or was related by marriage or
23 is or was otherwise legally related; or

24 (iii) is or was lawfully residing.

1 (4) The term “intimate partner” means a per-
2 son with whom one has a close personal relationship
3 that may be characterized by emotional connected-
4 ness, regular contact, ongoing physical contact and
5 sexual behavior, identity as a couple, and familiarity
6 and knowledge about each other’s lives.

7 (5) The term “intimate partner violence”
8 means physical violence, sexual violence, stalking,
9 and psychological aggression, including coercive tac-
10 tics carried out by one current or former intimate
11 partner against the other partner.

