

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-33
OFFERED BY MRS. BIGGS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

At the end of subtitle F of title X, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 10__ . PILOT PROGRAM ON THE USE OF CLINICALLY**
2 **TESTED DIGITAL FAITH-BASED PLATFORMS**
3 **TO SUPPORT SPIRITUAL FITNESS AND READI-**
4 **NESS.**

5 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Not later than 90
6 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of Defense shall establish a pilot program to evalu-
8 ate the use of clinically tested, commercially available dig-
9 ital faith-based platforms to support the modernization
10 and digitization of the chaplaincies of the Armed Forces
11 and to promote spiritual fitness, operational readiness, re-
12 silience, and overall mental health among members of the
13 Armed Forces and their dependents. The Secretary shall
14 design the pilot program to determine whether the plat-
15 forms evaluated are capable of—

16 (1) augmenting the ability of military chaplains
17 to provide spiritual care and counseling using estab-
18 lished metrics for effectiveness and performance

1 used by the Chaplain Corps today and included in
2 the modernization efforts of the Secretary;

3 (2) measurably expanding access to voluntary
4 spiritual support resources for geographically dis-
5 persed personnel, including deployed members of the
6 Armed Forces;

7 (3) enhancing spiritual readiness consistent
8 with total force fitness and holistic health initiatives
9 and other applicable standards and metrics;

10 (4) improving measurable indicators of resil-
11 ience, morale, and nonclinical mental health support;
12 and

13 (5) extending access to spiritual wellness re-
14 sources to military families and dependents, recog-
15 nizing the integral role of family readiness in overall
16 force resilience.

17 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
18 gram, the Secretary shall—

19 (1) evaluate and incorporate commercially avail-
20 able platforms supported by peer-reviewed evidence,
21 specific to the platform under evaluation, dem-
22 onstrating that engagement in religious or spiritual
23 practice through the platform produces positive spir-
24 itual wellbeing, spiritual fitness, resilience, or mental
25 health outcomes;

1 (2) ensure participation is voluntary and con-
2 sistent with the constitutional protections regarding
3 religious liberty and the prohibition on establishment
4 of religion;

5 (3) ensure platforms meet applicable cybersecu-
6 rity, privacy, and data protection standards of the
7 Department;

8 (4) prioritize evaluation of platforms that—

9 (A) have a demonstrated record of user en-
10 gagement and scalability across large and di-
11 verse populations;

12 (B) have a demonstrated record of pro-
13 viding tools that enable faith leaders and reli-
14 gious organizations to create, distribute, and
15 measure engagement with digital spiritual care
16 content; and

17 (C) provide engagement reporting and ana-
18 lytics sufficient to support the assessments re-
19 quired under subsection (d), including use by
20 geographically dispersed personnel, deployed
21 personnel, and military dependents;

22 (5) coordinate with the Chiefs of Chaplains of
23 the military departments;

1 (6) conduct the pilot across not fewer than two
2 military departments, including both active and re-
3 serve components; and

4 (7) carry out the pilot program using other
5 transaction authority under section 4022 of title 10,
6 United States Code, or procedures for the acquisi-
7 tion of commercial products and commercial services
8 under part 12 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation,
9 as the Secretary considers appropriate.

10 (c) DURATION; COMMENCEMENT.—The pilot pro-
11 gram shall be conducted for a period of not less than 12
12 months. The Secretary shall commence participant enroll-
13 ment not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act.

15 (d) REPORT AND ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM OF
16 RECORD FEASIBILITY.—Not later than 120 days after
17 completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall sub-
18 mit to the congressional defense committees a report con-
19 taining the results of the program and an assessment of
20 whether digital faith-based platforms should be incor-
21 porated into the spiritual readiness and chaplaincy pro-
22 grams of the Department of Defense. The report shall in-
23 clude the following:

24 (1) An assessment of participation rates, user
25 engagement, frequency of use, completion of plat-

1 form content, and sustained use over the duration of
2 the pilot.

3 (2) An assessment of the extent to which the
4 pilot expanded access to spiritual support resources
5 for members of the Armed Forces and military fami-
6 lies who historically under-use traditional chaplain
7 services, including personnel located in geographi-
8 cally dispersed locations and deployed environments,
9 members of the reserve components, and military
10 families.

11 (3) An assessment of changes in participant-re-
12 ported measures of spiritual fitness, purpose, mean-
13 ing, connectedness, resilience, and other indicators
14 identified by the Department as relevant to total
15 force fitness and holistic health initiatives.

16 (4) An assessment of whether digital faith-
17 based platforms enhanced the ability of military
18 chaplains to provide care, increased the reach of
19 chaplaincy services, reduced barriers to engagement,
20 or otherwise improved delivery of spiritual support
21 across participating units.

22 (5) To the extent practicable, an assessment of
23 changes in relevant readiness and resilience indica-
24 tors among participants, including stress manage-
25 ment, help-seeking behavior, social connectedness,

1 morale, and other nonclinical indicators identified by
2 the Secretary.

3 (6) A comparison of the costs and outcomes as-
4 sociated with digital delivery of spiritual readiness
5 resources relative to traditional methods of providing
6 comparable support, including an assessment of
7 scalability across the active and reserve components.

8 (7) An assessment of cybersecurity, privacy,
9 data protection, acquisition, contracting, and imple-
10 mentation considerations identified during execution
11 of the pilot program.

12 (8) An assessment of whether digital faith-
13 based platforms demonstrated sufficient effective-
14 ness, user adoption, scalability, affordability, and
15 mission relevance to warrant establishment of a pro-
16 gram of record or other permanent capability within
17 the Department. Such assessment shall include—

18 (A) recommended governance and over-
19 sight mechanisms;

20 (B) recommended funding levels and ap-
21 propriations accounts;

22 (C) recommended lead organization or ex-
23 ecutive agent;

24 (D) recommended performance measures
25 for future implementation; and

1 (E) any legislative authorities required to
2 support Department-wide adoption.

3 (9) Recommendations regarding continuation,
4 expansion, modification, competitive procurement, or
5 termination of the capability.

6 (e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “digital
7 faith-based platform”—

8 (1) means a commercially available digital plat-
9 form the primary purpose of which is the creation,
10 delivery, and facilitation of religious and spiritual
11 content and practice; and

12 (2) includes tools for faith leaders and religious
13 organizations.

