AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118–10

OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle A of title XVIII, insert the following:

SEC. 18. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COLlec-
TION AND REPORTING OF DEMOGRAPHIC
DATA ON VETERANS.

(a) Demographic Data of Veterans: Collection; Retention; Publication.—

(1) In general.—Subchapter II of chapter 5
of title 38, United States Code, is amended by in-
serting after section 527, the following new section:

“§ 528. Demographic data of veterans: collection; re-
tention; publication.

“(a) Database.—(1) The Secretary shall collect de-
ographic data of veterans (from any source of such data
available to the Secretary, including the National Center
for Veterans Analysis and Statistics of the Department,
the Bureau of the Census, and the Social Security Admin-
istration) and maintain a database of such data.

“(2) Data collected and maintained under paragraph
(1) shall include the following:
“(A) Sex.

“(B) Gender identity, disaggregated by—

“(i) male;
“(ii) female;
“(iii) cisgender;
“(iv) transgender;
“(v) gender diverse;
“(vi) nonbinary; and
“(vii) combinations of clauses (i) through (vi).

“(C) Age.

“(D) Educational level.

“(E) Race and ethnicity, disaggregated by—

“(i) membership in an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); and
“(ii) the same major race groups as the decennial censuses.

“(F) Sexual orientation, disaggregated by—

“(i) heterosexual;
“(ii) lesbian;
“(iii) gay;
“(iv) bisexual; and
“(v) queer.
“(G) Household makeup, including marital status and number of dependents.

“(H) Gross income and sources of income.

“(I) Housing status, disaggregated by—

“(i) renter;

“(ii) homeowner; or

“(iii) residing in a home owned or rented by another person.

“(J) Employment status, disaggregated by—

“(i) employed;

“(ii) seeking employment; and

“(iii) self-employed.

“(K) History of service in the Armed Forces, disaggregated by—

“(i) Armed Force;

“(ii) regular or reserve component;

“(iii) service in a combat theater of operations or war zone;

“(iv) service during a period of war;

“(v) whether a veteran is a former prisoner of war;

“(vi) whether the veteran was exposed to dead, dying, or wounded people during active military, naval, air, or space service;
“(vii) whether the veteran was exposed to environmental hazards during active military, naval, air, or space service; and
“(viii) whether the veteran experienced military sexual trauma (as that term is defined in section 1166 of this title).
“(L) Whether the veteran is enrolled in the patient enrollment system under section 1705 of this title.
“(M) Whether the veteran has received a disability rating from under section 1155 of this title.
“(N) Location of the veteran’s residence, disaggregated by—
“(i) rural or urban setting;
“(ii) distance to a facility of the Department; and
“(iii) whether the veteran has access to broadband service.
“(O) Any other information the Secretary determines appropriate.
“(b) Data Retention Standards.—Demographic data in the database under subsection (a) shall be—
“(1) anonymized to prevent the release of sensitive personal information (as that term is defined in section 5727 of this title); and
“(2) machine readable.

“(c) WEBSITE.—The Secretary shall maintain a publicly accessible website of the Department that provides access to the database under subsection (a). The Secretary shall update such website not less frequently than once each year.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting, after the item relating to section 527, the following new item:

“528. Demographic data of veterans: collection; retention; publication.”.

(3) IMPLEMENTATION DATE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out section 528 of such title, as added by this subsection, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORT ON DATA STRATEGY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report describing the progress, challenges, performance, and opportunities of implementing the data strategy of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report under this subsection shall include the following:
(A) Qualitative and quantitative progress towards strengthening data management of the Department, including business and mission impact enabled by management of data as a strategic asset.

(B) Recommendations of the Secretary regarding legislation that may accelerate data management maturity of the Department.

(C) Progress and results in cataloging and inventorying data assets of the Department and using such assets to support—

   (i) internal evidence-based policy-making; and

   (ii) ethical and appropriate dissemination of statistical aggregates, data-driven analysis, and open data.

(D) Progress in implementing requirements under chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”), and related data quality efforts to support strategic management of data collected by the Department.

(E) Efforts to move towards a rules-based, transparent, Department-wide approach to
management, integration, and sharing of, and
access to, data.

(F) Recommendations of the Secretary re-
garding adjustments to data requirements of
the Department.

(G) Information sharing agreements and
outstanding requirements with other Federal
entities, including gaps best addressed by the
addition of survey questions to an existing Fed-
eral survey instrument.

(H) Progress on recently enacted public
laws, Executive Orders, Presidential memo-
randa, and outstanding recommendations of the
Comptroller General of the United States or an
inspector general as it pertains to veteran popu-
lation-based data collection, quality, integration,
sharing, interoperability, and analytics within
the scope of improving and ensuring equity in
services to veterans, their families, and other
beneficiaries;

(I) A discussion of current risk assess-
ments regarding data breaches and information
security (as those terms are defined in section
5727 of title 38, United States Code) of the
Department.
(J) Priority data requirements of the Department, identified through consultation with the following entities:

(i) The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(ii) The Congressional Budget Office.

(iii) Veterans service organizations.

(iv) The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans of the Department.

(v) The Advisory Committee on Women Veterans of the Department.

(vi) The Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans of the Department.

(3) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 30 days after submitting the report under this subsection, the Secretary shall publish such report on the open data website of the Department, with all metrics and data included in a machine readable format.