

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-54
OFFERED BY MR. CARBAJAL OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle B of title VII, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 7____. DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ON INFANT AND**
2 **EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH SERV-**
3 **ICES FOR CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE**
4 **ARMED FORCES.**

5 (a) **ASSESSMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES.—**
6 The Secretary of Defense shall conduct an assessment of
7 the availability at military installations (and in the sur-
8 rounding communities) of covered services at the Federal,
9 State, and local level for covered children, for the purpose
10 of ensuring access to such services for covered children
11 with infant and early childhood mental health needs. Such
12 assessment shall address, at a minimum, the following:

13 (1) The availability of covered services that ad-
14 vance social and emotional development for covered
15 children, including any relevant certification or en-
16 dorsement programs for professionals serving as in-
17 fant and early childhood mental health consultants
18 for military child development centers.

1 (2) The availability of adequate diagnostic and
2 non-medical intervention covered services for covered
3 children.

4 (3) The availability of supplemental covered
5 services for covered children, such as consultation
6 services provided by licensed professionals who are
7 appropriately certified or endorsed in infant and
8 early childhood mental health, as determined by the
9 Secretary.

10 (4) The ease of access to adequate covered edu-
11 cational or treatment services for covered children,
12 as appropriate, such as the average duration of time
13 spent on waiting lists prior to receiving such serv-
14 ices.

15 (b) REVIEW OF BEST PRACTICES.—In developing the
16 assessment under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense
17 shall conduct a review of best practices across the United
18 States for the provision of covered services to covered chil-
19 dren. Such review shall include an assessment of any cov-
20 ered services of the Federal or State government available
21 in each State, with an emphasis on the availability in loca-
22 tions where members of the Armed Forces with children
23 reside.

24 (c) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

1 (1) PROJECTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of
2 Defense may conduct one or more demonstration
3 projects under this subsection to test and evaluate
4 various approaches to the provision of covered serv-
5 ices to covered children, for the purposes of deter-
6 mining the efficacy of such approaches, reducing in-
7 cidents of behavioral issues among those with infant
8 and early childhood mental health needs, ensuring
9 the early identification of such needs that may re-
10 quire non-medical intervention, and such other re-
11 lated purposes as may be determined appropriate by
12 the Secretary.

13 (2) PARTICIPANTS.—The Secretary may select
14 for participation in the study—

15 (A) members of the Armed Forces with
16 covered children who elect to so participate; and

17 (B) military child development centers that
18 are located on or near military installations or
19 that otherwise provide services to covered chil-
20 dren.

21 (3) PERSONNEL.—In carrying out a demonstra-
22 tion project under this subsection, the Secretary of
23 Defense may assign personnel who hold a covered
24 degree that the Secretary determines appropriate for
25 the provision of covered services to act as consult-

1 ants for the provision of such services to covered
2 children who are participants in the demonstration
3 project. Under such demonstration project, such as-
4 signed personnel may—

5 (A) develop and monitor promotion and
6 prevention, and non-medical intervention, plans
7 for such participants;

8 (B) provide appropriate training in the
9 provision of covered services to such partici-
10 pants;

11 (C) provide non-medical counseling services
12 to such participants, and any members of the
13 Armed Forces who are the caregivers of such
14 participants, as appropriate;

15 (D) coordinate and collaborate with other
16 relevant service providers on the military instal-
17 lation or in the surrounding community regard-
18 ing covered services; and

19 (E) become endorsed, or work towards be-
20 coming endorsed, by an organization that pro-
21 vides licensing or professional certifications rec-
22 ognized by the Federal or State government for
23 infant and early childhood mental health profes-
24 sionals.

1 (4) INFANT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL
2 HEALTH CONSULTATIONS.—

3 (A) CURRICULUM.—As an activity under
4 the demonstration project, the Secretary of De-
5 fense may authorize the development of a com-
6 prehensive professional development curriculum
7 for use in training non-medical counselors in in-
8 fant and early childhood mental health con-
9 sultation services, so that such counselors may
10 serve as infant early childhood mental health
11 consultants for covered children who are partici-
12 pants in the demonstration project.

13 (B) COMPETENCY GUIDELINES.—The cur-
14 riculum under subparagraph (A) shall be based
15 on a set of competency guidelines that are—

16 (i) designed to enhance culturally sen-
17 sitive, relationship-focused practice within
18 the framework of infant and early child-
19 hood mental health; and

20 (ii) recognized by an organization
21 specified in paragraph (3)(E) for the pur-
22 poses of certification or endorsement as a
23 infant and early childhood mental health
24 practitioner.

25 (5) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

1 (A) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of De-
2 fense may enter into a contract, or multiple
3 contracts, for the conduct of any demonstration
4 project under this subsection.

5 (B) REQUIREMENT FOR SUPERVISORY-
6 LEVEL PROVIDERS.—As a term of any contract
7 that is entered into pursuant to subparagraph
8 (A) for the implementation of special edu-
9 cational and behavioral intervention plans for
10 covered children who are participants in the
11 demonstration project, the Secretary shall re-
12 quire that any such plan be developed, reviewed,
13 and maintained by supervisory-level providers
14 approved by the Secretary.

15 (C) CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS.—The
16 Secretary shall establish, and ensure the imple-
17 mentation of, the following:

18 (i) Minimum required criteria for the
19 education, training, and experience of any
20 contractor furnishing covered services pur-
21 suant to a contract under subparagraph
22 (A).

23 (ii) Requirements for the supervision
24 and oversight of contractors who are infant
25 and early childhood mental health consult-

1 ants, including requirements for relevant
2 credentials for such consultants and the
3 frequency and intensity of such super-
4 vision.

5 (iii) Such other requirements as the
6 Secretary considers appropriate to ensure
7 the safety and protection of covered chil-
8 dren who are participants in the dem-
9 onstration project.

10 (6) DEADLINE TO COMMENCE; MINIMUM PE-
11 RIOD.—For each demonstration project conducted
12 under this subsection—

13 (A) the Secretary shall commence the dem-
14 onstration project not later than 180 days after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act; and

16 (B) the demonstration project shall be con-
17 ducted for a period of not less than two years.

18 (7) EVALUATION.—

19 (A) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of De-
20 fense shall conduct an evaluation of the out-
21 comes of each demonstration project conducted
22 under this subsection, to determine the efficacy
23 of covered services provided under the dem-
24 onstration project.

1 (B) MATTERS.— Each evaluation under
2 subparagraph (A) shall include, with respect to
3 the relevant demonstration project, an assess-
4 ment of the extent to which activities under the
5 demonstration project contributed to the fol-
6 lowing:

7 (i) Positive outcomes for covered chil-
8 dren.

9 (ii) Improvements to the services and
10 continuity of care for covered children.

11 (iii) Improvements to military family
12 readiness and enhanced military retention.

13 (d) REPORTS ON DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—Not
14 later than two years and 180 days after the date of the
15 commencement of a demonstration project under sub-
16 section (c), the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the
17 Committees on Armed Services of the House of Represent-
18 atives and the Senate a report on the demonstration
19 project. Such report shall include the following:

20 (1) A description of the demonstration project.

21 (2) The results of the evaluation under sub-
22 section (c)(7) with respect to the demonstration
23 project.

24 (3) A description of plans for the future provi-
25 sion of covered services, in accordance with the

1 model or approach evaluated pursuant to the dem-
2 onstration project.

3 (e) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER BENEFITS.—Nothing
4 in this section shall be construed as precluding a member
5 of the Armed Forces, or a dependent of such a member,
6 from eligibility for benefits under chapter 55 of title 10,
7 United States Code, to which such member or dependent
8 would otherwise be eligible.

9 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) The term “child” has the meaning given
11 that term in section 1072 of title 10, United States
12 Code.

13 (2) The term “covered child” means the infant,
14 toddler, or young child (from birth to age five, inclu-
15 sive) of a member of the Armed Forces.

16 (3) The term “covered degree” means a post-
17 secondary degree that—

18 (A) is awarded by an institution of higher
19 of education eligible to participate in programs
20 under title IV of the Higher Education Act of
21 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.); and

22 (B) is in the field of mental health, human
23 development, social work, or a related field, as
24 determined by the Secretary of Defense.

1 (4) The term “covered educational or treatment
2 service”—

3 (A) means a service, including a supportive
4 service, that provides quality early childhood
5 education by promoting healthy social and emo-
6 tional development and providing support for
7 children experiencing mental health challenges;
8 and

9 (B) includes the conduct of assessments,
10 coaching for educators and parents, and refer-
11 rals to health care professionals with specialties
12 in infant and early childhood mental health for
13 diagnosis, therapeutic treatment, and early
14 intervention.

15 (5) The term “covered service” means a covered
16 educational and treatment service or any other med-
17 ical or non-medical service, including consultation
18 services, relating to the improvement of infant and
19 early childhood mental health in the context of fam-
20 ily, community, and culture.

21 (6) The term “infant and early childhood men-
22 tal health” means the developing capacity of an in-
23 fant, toddler, or young child (from birth to age five,
24 inclusive), to—

1 (A) form close and secure adult and peer
2 relationships;

3 (B) experience, manage, and express a full
4 range of emotions; and

5 (C) explore the environment and learn.

