

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4909
OFFERED BY MR. COSTELLO OF PENNSYLVANIA**

At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . SENSE OF CONGRESS ON COURSE SCHEDULING**

2 **PREFERENCE FOR VETERAN STUDENTS.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) Members of the Armed Forces, including
5 the reserve component and the National Guard, con-
6 tinue to serve the nation bravely and make great
7 sacrifices to preserve our freedoms.

8 (2) Members of the Armed Forces and veterans
9 who return home and wish to pursue higher edu-
10 cation often face challenges reintegrating into civil-
11 ian and campus life.

12 (3) The 2015 Department of Veterans Affairs'
13 Veteran Economic Opportunity Report states that
14 “veterans on average took longer to complete certifi-
15 cates (2.3 more years), associate degrees (1.8 more
16 years), and bachelor degrees (2 more years) as com-
17 pared to traditional students in the general popu-
18 lation”.

1 (4) It is critical to identify and remove unneces-
2 sary hurdles that discourage degree completion or
3 allow for certain education benefits to expire before
4 a course of study is completed.

5 (5) Public and private institutions of higher
6 education have recognized the challenges student
7 veterans face as they reintegrate into campus and ci-
8 vilian life by offering veteran-centric programs.

9 (6) To date, several States have enacted legisla-
10 tion to require course scheduling preference for mili-
11 tary and veteran students at public institutions of
12 higher education.

13 (7) Course scheduling preference helps student
14 veterans and members of the Armed Forces stay on
15 track as they work to achieve a degree without
16 undue hindrance or procedural delay.

17 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
18 gress that the Department of Defense, in consultation
19 with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Depart-
20 ment of Education, as well as institutions of higher edu-
21 cation, should make efforts to educate higher education
22 institutions serving veterans and members of the Armed
23 Forces about the potential benefits that may result from
24 priority course registration policies and encourage institu-
25 tions of higher education to consider whether these poli-

1 cies, when properly tailored for the unique mission and
2 circumstances at each institution, could help improve edu-
3 cational outcomes for veterans and members of the Armed
4 Forces.

