

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-**

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**OFFERED BY MS. ESTY OF CONNECTICUT**

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following  
new section:

1 **SEC. 10\_\_\_. ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**  
2 **IN PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, MITIGATION,**  
3 **TREATMENT, AND REHABILITATION OF**  
4 **HEALTH CONDITIONS RELATING TO EXPO-**  
5 **SURE TO BURN PITS AND OTHER ENVIRON-**  
6 **MENTAL EXPOSURES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of  
8 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
9 end the following new section:

10 **“§ 7330C. Center of excellence in prevention, diag-**  
11 **nosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabili-**  
12 **tation of health conditions relating to ex-**  
13 **posure to burn pits and other environ-**  
14 **mental exposures**

15 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Secretary shall es-  
16 tablish within the Department a center of excellence in  
17 the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and reha-  
18 bilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to burn

1 pits and other environmental exposures to carry out the  
2 responsibilities specified in subsection (d).

3 “(2) The Secretary shall establish the center of excel-  
4 lence under paragraph (1) through the use of—

5 “(A) the directives and policies of the Depart-  
6 ment in effect as of the date of the enactment of  
7 this section;

8 “(B) the recommendations of the Comptroller  
9 General of the United States and Inspector General  
10 of the Department in effect as of such date; and

11 “(C) guidance issued by the Secretary of De-  
12 fense under section 313 of the National Defense Au-  
13 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Public Law  
14 112–239; 10 U.S.C. 1074 note).

15 “(b) SELECTION OF SITE.—In selecting the site for  
16 the center of excellence established under subsection (a),  
17 the Secretary shall consider entities that—

18 “(1) are equipped with the specialized equip-  
19 ment needed to study, diagnose, and treat health  
20 conditions relating to exposure to burn pits and  
21 other environmental exposures;

22 “(2) have a track record of publishing informa-  
23 tion relating to post-deployment health exposures  
24 among veterans who served in the Armed Forces in

1 support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation  
2 Enduring Freedom;

3 “(3) have access to animal models and in vitro  
4 models of dust immunology and lung injury con-  
5 sistent with the injuries of members of the Armed  
6 Forces who served in support of Operation Iraqi  
7 Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom; and

8 “(4) have expertise in allergy, immunology, and  
9 pulmonary diseases.

10 “(c) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary shall ensure  
11 that the center of excellence collaborates, to the maximum  
12 extent practicable, with the Secretary of Defense, institu-  
13 tions of higher education, and other appropriate public  
14 and private entities (including international entities) to  
15 carry out the responsibilities specified in subsection (d).

16 “(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The center of excellence  
17 shall have the following responsibilities:

18 “(1) To provide for the development, testing,  
19 and dissemination within the Department of best  
20 practices for the treatment of health conditions re-  
21 lating to exposure to burn pits and other environ-  
22 mental exposures.

23 “(2) To provide guidance for the health systems  
24 of the Department and the Department of Defense  
25 in determining the personnel required to provide

1 quality health care for members of the Armed  
2 Forces and veterans with health conditions relating  
3 to exposure to burn pits and other environmental ex-  
4 posures.

5 “(3) To establish, implement, and oversee a  
6 comprehensive program to train health professionals  
7 of the Department and the Department of Defense  
8 in the treatment of health conditions relating to ex-  
9 posure to burn pits and other environmental expo-  
10 sures.

11 “(4) To facilitate advancements in the study of  
12 the short-term and long-term effects of exposure to  
13 burn pits and other environmental exposures.

14 “(5) To disseminate within medical facilities of  
15 the Department best practices for training health  
16 professionals with respect to health conditions relat-  
17 ing to exposure to burn pits and other environmental  
18 exposures.

19 “(6) To conduct basic science and translational  
20 research on health conditions relating to exposure to  
21 burn pits and other environmental exposures for the  
22 purposes of understanding the etiology of such con-  
23 ditions and developing preventive interventions and  
24 new treatments.

1           “(7) To provide medical treatment to veterans  
2           diagnosed with medical conditions specific to expo-  
3           sure to burn pits and other environmental exposures.

4           “(e) USE OF BURN PITS REGISTRY DATA.—In car-  
5           rying out its responsibilities under subsection (d), the cen-  
6           ter of excellence shall have access to and make use of the  
7           data accumulated by the burn pits registry established  
8           under section 201 of the Dignified Burial and Other Vet-  
9           erans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 2012 (Public Law  
10          112–260; 38 U.S.C. 527 note).

11          “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12           “(1) The term ‘burn pit’ means an area of land  
13          located in Afghanistan or Iraq that—

14           “(A) is designated by the Secretary of De-  
15          fense to be used for disposing solid waste by  
16          burning in the outdoor air; and

17           “(B) does not contain a commercially man-  
18          ufactured incinerator or other equipment spe-  
19          cifically designed and manufactured for the  
20          burning of solid waste.

21           “(2) The term ‘other environmental exposures’  
22          means exposure to environmental hazards, including  
23          burn pits, dust or sand, hazardous materials, and  
24          waste at any site in Afghanistan or Iraq that emits

1 smoke containing pollutants present in the environ-  
2 ment or smoke from fires or explosions.

3 “(g) FUNDING.—(1) There is authorized to be appro-  
4 priated to carry out this section \$4,100,000 for each of  
5 the first five fiscal years beginning after the date of the  
6 enactment of this section.

7 “(2) The Secretary may award additional amounts on  
8 a competitive basis to the center of excellence from the  
9 medical and prosthetics research account of the Depart-  
10 ment for the purpose of conducting research under this  
11 section relating to clinical and scientific investigation.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
13 at the beginning of chapter 73 of such title is amended  
14 by inserting after the item relating to section 7330B the  
15 following new item:

“7330C. Center of excellence in prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment,  
and rehabilitation of health conditions relating to exposure to  
burn pits and other environmental exposures.”.

