

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-54
OFFERED BY MS. LOIS FRANKEL OF FLORIDA

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

1 **SEC. 5___ . GRANT PROGRAM FOR STUDENT TROOP CEN-**
2 **TERS AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDU-**
3 **CATION.**

4 (a) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—Subject to the avail-
5 ability of appropriations for such purpose, the Secretary
6 of Defense shall make grants to institutions of higher edu-
7 cation or consortia of institutions of higher education for
8 the establishment, maintenance, improvement, and oper-
9 ation of Student Troop Centers.

10 (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—

11 (1) **APPLICATION.**—An institution or Consor-
12 tium seeking a grant under subsection (a) shall sub-
13 mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in
14 such manner, and containing such information as
15 the Secretary may require.

16 (2) **CRITERIA.**—The Secretary may award a
17 grant under subsection (a) to an institution or a

1 consortium if the institution or consortium meets
2 each of the following criteria:

3 (A) The institution or consortium enrolls
4 in undergraduate or graduate courses—

5 (i) a significant number of student
6 veterans, members of the Armed Forces
7 serving on active duty, or members of a re-
8 serve component of the Armed Forces; or

9 (ii) a significant percentage of student
10 veterans, members of the Armed Forces
11 serving on active duty, or members of a re-
12 serve component of the Armed Forces,

13 as measured by comparing, for the most recent aca-
14 demic year for which data are available, the number
15 or percentage of student veterans, members of the
16 Armed Forces serving on active duty, and members
17 of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who are
18 enrolled in undergraduate or graduate courses at the
19 institution or consortium, with the average number
20 or percentage of student veterans, members of the
21 Armed Forces serving on active duty, and members
22 of a reserve component of the Armed Forces who
23 were enrolled in undergraduate or graduate courses
24 at comparable institutions or consortia of institu-
25 tions.

1 (B) The institution or consortium presents
2 a sustainability plan to demonstrate that the
3 Student Troop Center will be maintained and
4 will continue to operate after the grant period
5 has ended.

6 (3) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In awarding grants
7 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide the
8 following:

9 (A) Priority consideration to institutions or
10 consortia that meet one or more of the fol-
11 lowing criteria:

12 (i) The institution or consortium is lo-
13 cated in a region or community that has a
14 significant population of veterans.

15 (ii) The institution or consortium con-
16 siders the need to serve student veterans
17 at a wide range of institutions of higher
18 education, including the need to provide
19 equitable distribution of grants to institu-
20 tions of various sizes, geographic locations,
21 and institutions in urban and rural areas.

22 (iii) The institution or consortium car-
23 ries out programs or activities that assist
24 veterans in the local community, and the

1 spouses or partners and children of stu-
2 dent veterans.

3 (iv) The institution or consortium
4 partners in its veteran-specific program-
5 ming with nonprofit veteran service organi-
6 zations, local workforce development orga-
7 nizations, or other institutions of higher
8 education.

9 (v) The institution or consortium com-
10 mits to hiring a staff at the Student Troop
11 Center that includes veterans (including
12 student veteran volunteers and student vet-
13 erans participating in a Federal work-
14 study program, a work-study program ad-
15 ministered by the Secretary of Veteran Af-
16 fairs, or a State work-study program).

17 (vi) The institution or consortium
18 commits to providing an orientation for
19 student veterans that—

20 (I) is separate from the new stu-
21 dent orientation provided by the insti-
22 tution or consortium; and

23 (II) provides student veterans
24 with information on the benefits and
25 resources available to such students at

1 or through the institution or consor-
2 tium.

3 (vii) The institution or consortium
4 commits to using a portion of the grant re-
5 ceived under this section to develop or
6 maintain a student veteran retention pro-
7 gram carried out by the Student Troop
8 Center.

9 (viii) The institution or consortium
10 commits to providing mental health coun-
11 seling to its student veterans (and the
12 spouses or partners and children of such
13 students).

14 (B) Equitable distribution of such grants
15 to institutions or consortia of various sizes, geo-
16 graphic locations, and in urban and rural areas.

17 (c) ADDITIONAL CRITERIA.—In awarding grants
18 under subsection (a), the Secretary—

19 (1) shall take into consideration representing a
20 broad spectrum of sectors and sizes, including insti-
21 tutions or consortia from urban, suburban, and rural
22 regions of the United States; and

23 (2) may provide a preference for institutions or
24 consortia that—

1 (A) are located in a region or community
2 that has a significant population of veterans;

3 (B) carry out programs or activities that
4 assist veterans in the local community and the
5 spouses of veteran students;

6 (C) with respect to veteran-specific pro-
7 gramming partner with non-profit veteran serv-
8 ice organizations, local workforce development
9 organizations, or institutions of higher edu-
10 cation;

11 (D) commit to hiring a staff at the Stu-
12 dent Troop Center that includes veterans (in-
13 cluding veteran student volunteers and veteran
14 students participating in a work-study program
15 of the Department of Veteran Affairs or an-
16 other Federal agency or a State work-study
17 program);

18 (E) commit to using a portion of the grant
19 received under this section to develop an early-
20 warning veteran student retention program car-
21 ried out by the Student Troop Center; and

22 (F) commit to providing mental health
23 counseling to its veteran students and their
24 spouses.

1 (d) SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF VETERAN STU-
2 DENTS.—For purposes of this section, in calculating
3 whether a course has a significant percentage of veteran
4 students, the Secretary shall compare the overall enroll-
5 ment of the institution or consortium to the number, for
6 the most recent academic year for which data are avail-
7 able, of veteran students, members of the Armed Forces
8 serving on active duty, and members of a reserve compo-
9 nent of the Armed Forces who are enrolled in under-
10 graduate or graduate courses at the institution or consor-
11 tium.

12 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—An institution or consortium
13 that is awarded a grant under subsection (a)—

14 (1) shall use such grant to establish, maintain,
15 improve, or operate a Student Troop Center; and

16 (2) may use a portion of such funds to carry
17 out supportive instruction services for student vet-
18 erans, including—

19 (A) assistance with special admissions and
20 transfer of credit from previous postsecondary
21 education or experience; and

22 (B) any other support services the institu-
23 tion or consortium determines to be necessary
24 to ensure the success of veterans on campus in
25 achieving education and career goals.

1 (f) AMOUNTS AWARDED.—

2 (1) DURATION.—Each grant awarded under
3 subsection (a) shall be for a four-year period.

4 (2) TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANT AND SCHED-
5 ULE.—Each grant awarded under subsection (a)
6 may not exceed a total of \$500,000. The Secretary
7 shall disburse to an institution or consortium the
8 amounts awarded under the grant in such amounts
9 and at such times during the grant period as the
10 Secretary determines appropriate.

11 (g) REPORT.—Not later than three years after the
12 date on which the first grant is awarded under subsection
13 (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on
14 Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representa-
15 tives a report on the grant program established under sub-
16 section (a). Such report shall include—

17 (1) the number of grants awarded;

18 (2) the institutions of higher education and con-
19 sortia that have received grants;

20 (3) with respect to each such institution of
21 higher education and consortium—

22 (A) the amounts awarded;

23 (B) how such institution or consortium
24 used such amounts;

1 (C) a description of the students to whom
2 services were offered as a result of the award;
3 and

4 (D) data enumerating whether the use of
5 the amounts awarded helped veteran students
6 at the institution or consortium toward comple-
7 tion of a degree, certificate, or credential;

8 (4) best practices for veteran student success,
9 identified by reviewing data provided by institutions
10 and consortia that received a grant under this sec-
11 tion; and

12 (5) a determination by the Secretary with re-
13 spect to whether the grant program under this sec-
14 tion should be extended or expanded.

15 (h) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary
16 to carry out the grant program established under sub-
17 section (a) shall terminate on the date that is seven years
18 after the date on which the first grant is awarded under
19 subsection (a).

20 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2023 and
22 each of the six subsequent fiscal years such sums as may
23 be necessary to carry out this Act.

24 (j) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AFFAIRS BEST PRAC-
25 TICES WEBSITE.—Not later than three years after the

1 date on which the first grant is awarded under subsection
2 (a), the Secretary shall develop and implement a website
3 for veteran student services at institutions of higher edu-
4 cation that includes details on best practices for serving
5 veteran students at institutions of higher education.

6 (k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) The term “institution of higher education”
8 has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the
9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

10 (2) The term “Student Troop Center” means a
11 dedicated space on a campus of an institution of
12 higher education that provides students who are vet-
13 erans or members of the Armed Forces with the fol-
14 lowing:

15 (A) A lounge or meeting space for such
16 students, their spouses or partners, and vet-
17 erans in the community.

18 (B) A centralized office for services for
19 such students that—

20 (i) is a single point of contact to co-
21 ordinate comprehensive support services
22 for such students;

23 (ii) is staffed by trained employees
24 and volunteers, which includes veterans
25 and at least one full-time employee or vol-

1 unteer who is trained as a veterans' bene-
2 fits counselor;

3 (iii) provides such students with as-
4 sistance relating to—

5 (I) transitioning from the Armed
6 Forces to student life;

7 (II) transitioning from the
8 Armed Forces to the civilian work-
9 force;

10 (III) networking with other such
11 students and veterans in the commu-
12 nity;

13 (IV) understanding and obtaining
14 benefits provided by the institution of
15 higher education, Federal Govern-
16 ment, and State for which such stu-
17 dents may be eligible;

18 (V) understanding how to suc-
19 ceed in the institution of higher edu-
20 cation, including by understanding
21 academic policies, the course selection
22 process, and institutional policies and
23 practices related to the transfer of
24 academic credits; and

1 (VI) understanding their dis-
2 ability-related rights and protections
3 under the Americans with Disabilities
4 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.)
5 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation
6 Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) ; and
7 (iv) provides comprehensive academic
8 and tutoring services for such students, in-
9 cluding peer-to-peer tutoring and academic
10 mentorship.

