

AMENDMENT TO RULES CMTE. PRINT 119-33

OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA

Page 381, after line 10, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 5 ____ . GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH**
2 **EFFECTIVENESS OF TRANSITION ASSIST-**
3 **ANCE PROGRAM AND SOLID START PRO-**
4 **GRAM.**

5 (a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General of
6 the United States shall conduct a study on the effective-
7 ness of TAP and the Solid Start program in identifying,
8 counseling, and supporting members of the Armed Forces
9 and veterans regarding mental health risks and transition-
10 related stressors during their separation from the Armed
11 Forces.

12 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—The study required under sub-
13 section (a) shall include an assessment of the following:

14 (1) The extent to which counseling provided
15 under TAP includes comprehensive information re-
16 garding post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic
17 brain injury, anxiety disorders, depression, chronic
18 pain, sleep disorders, suicidal ideation, and other

1 mental health conditions associated with service in
2 the Armed Forces.

3 (2) The effectiveness of TAP curriculum in edu-
4 cating separating members on the risk factors of
5 suicide, including signs of severe relationship strain,
6 isolation, unemployment, or loss of community sup-
7 port systems.

8 (3) The baseline performance metrics and out-
9 reach success rates of the Solid Start program dur-
10 ing the first year following separation from the
11 Armed Forces, with a specific focus on the pro-
12 gram's success in facilitating veterans' enrollment in
13 the system of annual patient enrollment under sec-
14 tion 1705 of title 38, United States Code.

15 (4) The degree of interagency data-sharing and
16 coordination between the Secretary of Defense and
17 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to track warm
18 handoffs for high-risk members of the Armed Forces
19 separating from active duty.

20 (5) Gaps in current pre-separation counseling
21 and post-separation outreach related to substance
22 use disorder resources, including alcohol and pre-
23 scription opioid abuse counseling.

24 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General

1 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
2 a report containing the findings and recommendations of
3 the Comptroller General based on the study conducted
4 under subsection (a), including administrative or legisla-
5 tive recommendations to reduce veteran suicide during the
6 first year following separation from the Armed Forces.

7 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-
9 mittee” means—

10 (A) the Committee on Armed Services of
11 the House of Representatives;

12 (B) the Committee on Armed Services of
13 the Senate;

14 (C) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
15 the House of Representatives; or

16 (D) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
17 the Senate.

18 (2) The term “Solid Start program” means the
19 program under section 6320 of title 38, United
20 States Code.

21 (3) The term “TAP” means the Transition As-
22 sistance Program under sections 1142 and 1144 of
23 title 10, United States Code.

