AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 1735
OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of subtitle I of title V, add the following new section:

SEC. 5. PRELIMINARY MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR INDIVIDUALS BECOMING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) In general.—Chapter 31 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 520d. Preliminary mental health screenings

“(a) Provision of mental health screening.—Before any individual enlists in an armed force or is commissioned as an officer in an armed force, the Secretary concerned shall provide the individual with a mental health screening.

“(b) Use of screening.—(1) The Secretary shall use the results of a mental screening conducted under subsection (a) as a baseline for any subsequent mental health examinations of the individual, including such examinations provided under sections 1074f and 1074m of this title.
“(2) The Secretary may not consider the results of a mental health screening conducted under subsection (a) in determining the promotion of a member of the armed forces.

“(c) APPLICATION OF PRIVACY LAWS.—With respect to applicable laws and regulations relating to the privacy of information, the Secretary shall treat a mental health screening conducted under subsection (a) in the same manner as the medical records of a member of the armed forces.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding after the item relating to section 520c the following new item:

“520d. Preliminary mental health screenings.”.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National Institute of Mental Health of the National Institutes of Health shall submit to Congress and the Secretary of Defense a report on preliminary mental health screenings of members of the Armed Forces.
(B) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The report under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) Recommendations with respect to establishing a preliminary mental health screening of members of the Armed Forces to bring mental health screenings to parity with physical screenings of members.

(ii) Recommendations with respect to the composition of the mental health screening, evidenced-based best practices, and how to track changes in mental health screenings relating to traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions.

(C) COORDINATION.—The National Institute of Mental Health shall carry out subparagraph (A) in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the surgeons general of the military departments, and other relevant experts.

(2) REPORTS ON EFFICACY OF SCREENINGS.—

(A) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—Not later than one year after the date on which the Sec-
Secretary of Defense begins providing preliminary mental health screenings under section 520d(a) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the efficacy of such preliminary mental health screenings.

(B) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the submittal of the report under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the efficacy of the preliminary mental health screenings described in such subparagraph.

(C) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The reports required by subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall include the following:

(i) An evaluation of the evidence-based best practices used by the Secretary in composing and conducting preliminary mental health screenings of members of the Armed Forces under such section 520d(a).

(ii) An evaluation of the evidence-based best practices used by the Secretary in tracking changes in mental health
screenings relating to traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions among members of the Armed Forces.

(d) Implementation of Preliminary Mental Health Screening.—The Secretary of Defense may not provide a preliminary mental health screening under section 520d(a) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), until the Secretary receives and evaluates the initial report required by subsection (c)(1).

(e) Report on Efficacy of Physical Examinations for Certain Members of the Armed Forces Upon Separation From Active Duty.—

(1) In General.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on the efficacy of the mental health components of the physical examinations provided under paragraph (5) of section 1145(a) of title 10, United States Code, to members of the Armed Forces who are separated from active duty as described in paragraph (2) of such section.

(2) Evaluation of Effectiveness.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include an eval-
vation of the effectiveness of the physical examinations described in such subsection in—

(A) identifying members of the Armed Forces with traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and other mental health conditions; and

(B) ensuring that health care is provided for such members.