

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-**

**10**

**OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS**

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

1 **SEC. 5\_\_\_ . TASK FORCE ON HISTORICAL AND CURRENT**  
2 **BARRIERS TO AFRICAN AMERICAN PARTICI-**  
3 **PATION AND EQUAL TREATMENT IN THE**  
4 **ARMED SERVICES.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense  
6 shall establish within the Department of Defense a task  
7 force to be known as the “Task Force on Historical and  
8 Current Barriers to African American Participation and  
9 Equal Treatment in the Armed Services” (hereafter re-  
10 ferred to as the “Task Force”).

11 (b) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall advise, consult  
12 with, report to, and make recommendations to the Sec-  
13 retary, as appropriate, on the development, refinement,  
14 and implementation of policies, programs, planning, and  
15 training which will provide redress for historical barriers  
16 to African American participation and equal treatment in  
17 the Armed Services.

18 (c) STUDIES AND INVESTIGATIONS.—

1           (1) INVESTIGATION OF HISTORICAL RECORD OF  
2           SLAVERY.—As part of its duties, the Task Force  
3           shall identify, compile, examine, and synthesize the  
4           relevant corpus of evidentiary documentation regard-  
5           ing the military or Armed Service’s involvement in  
6           the institution of slavery. The Task Force’s docu-  
7           mentation and examination shall include facts re-  
8           lated to—

9                   (A) the capture and procurement of Afri-  
10                  cans;

11                  (B) the transport of Africans to the United  
12                  States and the colonies that became the United  
13                  States for the purpose of enslavement, including  
14                  their treatment during transport;

15                  (C) the sale and acquisition of Africans  
16                  and their descendants as chattel property in  
17                  interstate and intrastate commerce;

18                  (D) the treatment of African slaves and  
19                  their descendants in the colonies and the  
20                  United States, including the deprivation of their  
21                  freedom, exploitation of their labor, and de-  
22                  struction of their culture, language, religion,  
23                  and families; and

24                  (E) the extensive denial of humanity, sex-  
25                  ual abuse, and the chattelization of persons.

1           (2) STUDY OF EFFECTS OF DISCRIMINATORY  
2 POLICIES IN THE ARMED SERVICES.—As part of its  
3 duties, the Task Force shall study and analyze the  
4 official policies or routine practices of the Armed  
5 Services with discriminatory intent or discriminatory  
6 effect on the formerly enslaved Africans and their  
7 descendants in the Armed Services following the  
8 overdue recognition of such persons as United States  
9 citizens beginning in 1868.

10           (3) STUDY OF OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINA-  
11 TION.—As part of its duties, the Task Force shall  
12 study and analyze the other forms of discrimination  
13 in the Armed Services against freed African slaves  
14 and their descendants who were belatedly accorded  
15 their rightful status as United States citizens from  
16 1868 to the present.

17           (4) STUDY OF LINGERING EFFECTS OF DIS-  
18 CRIMINATION.—As part of its duties, the Task Force  
19 shall study and analyze the lingering negative effects  
20 of the institution of slavery and the matters de-  
21 scribed in the preceding paragraphs on living Afri-  
22 can Americans and their participation in the Armed  
23 Services.

24           (d) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REMEDIES.—

1           (1) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Based on the results  
2 of the investigations and studies carried out under  
3 subsection (c), the Task Force shall recommend ap-  
4 propriate remedies to the Secretary.

5           (2) ISSUES ADDRESSED.—In recommending  
6 remedies under this subsection, the Task Force shall  
7 address the following:

8                   (A) How Federal laws and policies that  
9 continue to disproportionately and negatively  
10 affect African Americans as a group in the  
11 Armed Services, and those that perpetuate the  
12 lingering effects, materially and psycho-socially,  
13 can be eliminated.

14                   (B) How the injuries resulting from the  
15 matters described in subsection (c) can be re-  
16 versed through appropriate policies, programs,  
17 and projects.

18                   (C) How, in consideration of the Task  
19 Force's findings, to calculate any form of repair  
20 for inequities to the descendants of enslaved Af-  
21 ricans.

22                   (D) The form of that repair which should  
23 be awarded, the instrumentalities through  
24 which the repair should be provided, and who

1           should be eligible for the repair of such inequi-  
2           ties.

3       (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—

4           (1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 90 days after  
5       the end of each year, the Task Force shall submit  
6       a report to the Secretary on its activities, findings,  
7       and recommendations during the preceding year.

8           (2) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 180 days  
9       after the date on which the Secretary receives an an-  
10      nual report for a year under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
11      retary shall publish a public version of the report,  
12      and shall include such related matters as the Sec-  
13      retary finds would be informative to the public dur-  
14      ing that year.

15      (f) COMPOSITION; GOVERNANCE.—

16           (1) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall be  
17      composed of such number of members as the Sec-  
18      retary may appoint from among individuals whom  
19      the Secretary finds are qualified to serve by virtue  
20      of their military service, education, training, activism  
21      or experience, particularly in the field of history, so-  
22      ciology, and African American studies.

23           (2) PUBLICATION OF LIST OF MEMBERS.—The  
24      Secretary shall post and regularly update on a public

1 website of the Department of Defense the list of the  
2 members of the Task Force.

3 (3) MEETINGS.—The Task Force shall meet  
4 not less frequently than quarterly, and may convene  
5 additional meetings during a year as necessary. At  
6 least one of the meetings during each year shall be  
7 open to the public.

8 (4) GOVERNANCE.—The Secretary shall estab-  
9 lish rules for the structure and governance of the  
10 Task Force.

11 (5) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall complete  
12 the appointment of the members of the Task Force  
13 not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
14 ment of this Act.

