

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-13
OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Add at the end of subtitle H of title V the following:

1 **SEC. 576. TASK FORCE ON HISTORICAL AND CURRENT BAR-**
2 **RIERS TO AFRICAN AMERICAN PARTICIPA-**
3 **TION AND EQUAL TREATMENT IN THE ARMED**
4 **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.

