

**AMENDMENT TO**  
**RULES COMMITTEE 116-19**  
**OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS**

At the end of subtitle J of title V, add the following:

1 **SEC. 597. DESIGNATION OF BATTLE BUDDY CHECK WEEK**  
2 **BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
4 shall designate one week per year to organize outreach  
5 events and educate veterans on how to conduct peer  
6 wellness checks, which shall be known as “Battle Buddy  
7 Check Week”.

8 (b) EVENTS AND EDUCATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—During Battle Buddy Check  
10 Week, the Secretary, in consultation with organiza-  
11 tions that represent veterans, non-profits that serve  
12 veterans, mental health experts, members of the  
13 Armed Forces, and such other entities and individ-  
14 uals as the Secretary considers appropriate, shall  
15 collaborate with organizations that represent vet-  
16 erans to provide educational opportunities for vet-  
17 erans to learn how to conduct peer wellness checks.

1           (2) TRAINING MATTERS.—As part of the edu-  
2           cational opportunities provided under paragraph (1),  
3           the Secretary shall provide the following:

4                   (A) A script for veterans to use to conduct  
5                   peer wellness checks that includes information  
6                   on appropriate referrals to resources veterans  
7                   might need.

8                   (B) Online and in-person training, as ap-  
9                   propriate, on how to conduct a peer wellness  
10                  check.

11                  (C) Opportunities for members of organi-  
12                  zations that represent veterans to learn how to  
13                  train individuals to conduct peer wellness  
14                  checks.

15                  (D) Training for veterans participating in  
16                  Battle Buddy Check Week on how to transfer  
17                  a phone call directly to the Veterans Crisis  
18                  Line.

19                  (E) Resiliency training for veterans partici-  
20                  pating in Battle Buddy Check Week on han-  
21                  dling a veteran in crisis.

22           (3) ONLINE MATERIALS.—All training materials  
23           provided under the educational opportunities under  
24           paragraph (1) shall be made available on a website  
25           of the Department.

1 (c) OUTREACH.—The Secretary, in collaboration with  
2 organizations that represent veterans, may conduct out-  
3 reach regarding educational opportunities under sub-  
4 section (b) at—

5 (1) public events where many veterans are ex-  
6 pected to congregate;

7 (2) meetings of organizations that represent  
8 veterans;

9 (3) facilities of the Department of Veterans Af-  
10 fairs; and

11 (4) such other locations as the Secretary, in col-  
12 laboration with organizations that represent vet-  
13 erans, considers appropriate.

14 (d) VETERANS CRISIS LINE PLAN.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure  
16 that the Veterans Crisis Line has a plan for han-  
17 dling the potential increase of calls that may occur  
18 during Battle Buddy Check Week.

19 (2) SUBMITTAL OF PLAN.—The head of the  
20 Veterans Crisis Line shall submit to the Secretary a  
21 plan for how to handle excess calls during Battle  
22 Buddy Check Week, which may include the fol-  
23 lowing:

24 (A) Additional hours for staff.

25 (B) The use of a backup call center.

1                   (C) Any other plan to ensure that calls  
2                   from veterans in crisis are being answered in a  
3                   timely manner by an individual trained at the  
4                   same level as a Veterans Crisis Line responder.

5           (e) VETERANS CRISIS LINE DEFINED.—In this sec-  
6           tion, the term “Veterans Crisis Line” means the toll-free  
7           hotline for veterans established under section 1720F(h) of  
8           title 38, United States Code.

