

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-

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OFFERED BY MRS. LAWRENCE OF MICHIGAN

Page1390, after line 19, add the following:

1 **SEC. 6013. PILOT PROGRAM ON DOULA SUPPORT FOR VET-**
2 **ERANS.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) There are approximately 2,300,000 women
5 within the veteran population in the United States.

6 (2) The number of women veterans using serv-
7 ices from the Veterans Health Administration has
8 increased by 28.8 percent from 423,642 in 2014 to
9 545,670 in 2019.

10 (3) During the period of 2010 through 2015,
11 the use of maternity services from the Veterans
12 Health Administration increased by 44 percent.

13 (4) Although prenatal care and delivery is not
14 provided in facilities of the Department of Veterans
15 Affairs, pregnant women seek care from the Depart-
16 ment for other conditions may also need emergency
17 care and require coordination of services through the
18 Veterans Community Care Program under section
19 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

1 (5) The number of unique women veteran pa-
2 tients with an obstetric delivery paid for by the De-
3 partment increased by 1,778 percent from 200 deliveries
4 in 2000 to 3,756 deliveries in 2015.

5 (6) The number of women age 35 years or older
6 with an obstetric delivery paid for by the Depart-
7 ment increased 16-fold from fiscal year 2000 to fis-
8 cal year 2015.

9 (7) A study in 2010 found that veterans return-
10 ing from Operation Enduring Freedom and Oper-
11 ation Iraqi Freedom who experienced pregnancy
12 were twice as likely to have a diagnosis of depres-
13 sion, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, bipolar
14 disorder, or schizophrenia as those who had not ex-
15 perienced a pregnancy.

16 (8) The number of women veterans of reproduc-
17 tive age seeking care from the Veterans Health Ad-
18 ministration continues to grow (more than 185,000
19 as of fiscal year 2015).

20 (b) PROGRAM.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
23 retary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a pilot pro-
24 gram to furnish doula services to covered veterans
25 through eligible entities by expanding the Whole

1 Health model of the Department of Veterans Af-
2 fairs, or successor model, to measure the impact
3 that doula support services have on birth and mental
4 health outcomes of pregnant veterans (in this section
5 referred to as the “pilot program”).

6 (2) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out the pilot
7 program, the Secretary shall consider all types of
8 doulas, including traditional and community-based
9 doulas.

10 (3) CONSULTATION.—In designing and imple-
11 menting the pilot program the Secretary shall con-
12 sult with stakeholders, including—

13 (A) organizations representing veterans,
14 including veterans that are disproportionately
15 impacted by poor maternal health outcomes;

16 (B) community-based health care profes-
17 sionals, including doulas, and other stake-
18 holders; and

19 (C) experts in promoting health equity and
20 combating racial bias in health care settings.

21 (4) GOALS.—The goals of the pilot program are
22 the following:

23 (A) To improve—

24 (i) maternal, mental health, and in-
25 fant care outcomes;

1 (ii) integration of doula support serv-
2 ices into the Whole Health model of the
3 Department, or successor model; and

4 (iii) the experience of women receiving
5 maternity care from the Department, in-
6 cluding by increasing the ability of a
7 woman to develop and follow her own
8 birthing plan.

9 (B) To reengage veterans with the Depart-
10 ment after giving birth.

11 (c) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the
12 pilot program in—

13 (1) the three Veterans Integrated Service Net-
14 works of the Department that have the highest per-
15 centage of female veterans enrolled in the patient
16 enrollment system of the Department established
17 and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38,
18 United States Code, compared to the total number
19 of enrolled veterans in such Network; and

20 (2) the three Veterans Integrated Service Net-
21 works that have the lowest percentage of female vet-
22 erans enrolled in the patient enrollment system com-
23 pared to the total number of enrolled veterans in
24 such Network.

1 (d) OPEN PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall
2 allow any eligible entity or covered veteran interested in
3 participating in the pilot program to participate in the
4 pilot program.

5 (e) SERVICES PROVIDED.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under the pilot program, a
7 covered veteran shall receive not more than 10 ses-
8 sions of care from a doula under the Whole Health
9 model of the Department, or successor model, under
10 which a doula works as an advocate for the veteran
11 alongside the medical team for the veteran.

12 (2) SESSIONS.—Sessions covered under para-
13 graph (1) shall be as follows:

14 (A) Three or four sessions before labor and
15 delivery.

16 (B) One session during labor and delivery.

17 (C) Three or four sessions after post-
18 partum, which may be conducted via the mobile
19 application for VA Video Connect.

20 (f) ADMINISTRATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Women's
22 Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or
23 successor office, shall—

24 (A) coordinate services and activities under
25 the pilot program;

1 (B) oversee the administration of the pilot
2 program; and

3 (C) conduct onsite assessments of medical
4 facilities of the Department that are partici-
5 pating in the pilot program.

6 (2) GUIDELINES FOR VETERAN-SPECIFIC
7 CARE.—The Office shall establish guidelines under
8 the pilot program for training doulas on military
9 sexual trauma and post traumatic stress disorder.

10 (3) AMOUNTS FOR CARE.—The Office may rec-
11 ommend to the Secretary appropriate payment
12 amounts for care and services provided under the
13 pilot program, which shall not exceed \$3,500 per
14 doula per veteran.

15 (g) DOULA SERVICE COORDINATOR.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
17 tion with the Office of Women’s Health, or successor
18 office, shall establish a Doula Service Coordinator
19 within the functions of the Maternity Care Coordi-
20 nator at each medical facility of the Department
21 that is participating in the pilot program.

22 (2) DUTIES.—A Doula Service Coordinator es-
23 tablished under paragraph (1) at a medical facility
24 shall be responsible for—

1 (A) working with eligible entities, doulas,
2 and covered veterans participating in the pilot
3 program; and

4 (B) managing payment between eligible en-
5 tities and the Department under the pilot pro-
6 gram.

7 (3) TRACKING OF INFORMATION.—A doula pro-
8 viding services under the pilot program shall report
9 to the applicable Doula Service Coordinator after
10 each session conducted under the pilot program.

11 (4) COORDINATION WITH WOMEN’S PROGRAM
12 MANAGER.—A Doula Service Coordinator for a med-
13 ical facility of the Department shall coordinate with
14 the women’s program manager for that facility in
15 carrying out the duties of the Doula Service Coordi-
16 nator under the pilot program.

17 (h) TERM OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall
18 conduct the pilot program for a period of 5 years.

19 (i) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
20 establish a process to provide technical assistance to eligi-
21 ble entities and doulas participating in the pilot program.

22 (j) REPORT.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
25 nually thereafter for each year in which the pilot

1 program is carried out, the Secretary shall submit to
2 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate
3 and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
4 House of Representatives a report on the pilot pro-
5 gram.

6 (2) FINAL REPORT.—As part of the final report
7 submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall
8 include recommendations on whether the model
9 studied in the pilot program should be continued or
10 more widely adopted by the Department.

11 (k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary, for
13 each of fiscal years 2022 through 2027, such sums as may
14 be necessary to carry out this section.

15 (l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) The term “covered veteran” means a preg-
17 nant veteran or a formerly pregnant veteran (with
18 respect to sessions post-partum) who is enrolled in
19 the patient enrollment system of the Department of
20 Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38,
21 United States Code.

22 (2) The term “eligible entity” means an entity
23 that provides medically accurate, comprehensive ma-
24 ternity services to covered veterans under the laws
25 administered by the Secretary, including under the

1 Veterans Community Care Program under section
2 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

3 (3) The term “VA Video Connect” means the
4 program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to
5 connect veterans with their health care team from
6 anywhere, using encryption to ensure a secure and
7 private session.

