

**AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-57
OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF
MASSACHUSETTS**

At the end of subtitle D of title VII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 7____. WOUNDED WARRIOR SERVICE DOG PROGRAM.**

2 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of De-
3 fense shall establish a program, to be known as the
4 “Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program”, to award com-
5 petitive grants to nonprofit organizations to assist such
6 organizations in the planning, designing, establishing, or
7 operating (or any combination thereof) of programs to
8 provide assistance dogs to covered members and veterans.
9 The awarding of such grants is subject to the availability
10 of appropriations provided for such purpose.

11 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The recipient of a grant
13 under this section shall use the grant to carry out
14 programs that provide assistance dogs to covered
15 members and veterans who have a disability de-
16 scribed in paragraph (2).

1 (2) **DISABILITY.**—A disability described in this
2 paragraph is any of the following:

3 (A) Blindness or visual impairment.

4 (B) Loss of use of a limb, paralysis, or
5 other significant mobility issues.

6 (C) Loss of hearing.

7 (D) Traumatic brain injury.

8 (E) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

9 (F) Any other disability that the Secretary
10 of Defense considers appropriate.

11 (3) **TIMING OF AWARD.**—The Secretary may
12 not award a grant under this section to reimburse
13 a recipient for costs previously incurred by the re-
14 cipient in carrying out a program to provide assist-
15 ance dogs to covered members and veterans unless
16 the recipient elects for the award to be such a reim-
17 bursement.

18 (c) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive a grant
19 under this section, a nonprofit organization shall submit
20 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
21 ner, and containing such information as the Secretary may
22 require. Such application shall include—

23 (1) a proposal for the evaluation required by
24 subsection (d); and

25 (2) a description of—

1 (A) the training that will be provided by
2 the organization to covered members and vet-
3 erans;

4 (B) the training of dogs that will serve as
5 assistance dogs;

6 (C) the aftercare services that the organi-
7 zation will provide for such dogs and covered
8 members and veterans;

9 (D) the plan for publicizing the availability
10 of such dogs through a targeted marketing
11 campaign to covered members and veterans;

12 (E) the recognized expertise of the organi-
13 zation in breeding and training such dogs;

14 (F) the commitment of the organization to
15 humane standards for animals; and

16 (G) the experience of the organization with
17 working with military medical treatment facili-
18 ties or medical facilities of the Department of
19 Veterans Affairs; and

20 (3) a statement certifying that the organiza-
21 tion—

22 (A) is accredited by Assistance Dogs Inter-
23 national, the International Guide Dog Federa-
24 tion, or another similar widely recognized ac-
25 creditation organization that the Secretary de-

1 termines has accreditation standards that meet
2 or exceed the standards of Assistance Dogs
3 International and the International Guide Dog
4 Federation; or

5 (B) is a candidate for such accreditation or
6 otherwise meets or exceeds such standards, as
7 determined by the Secretary.

8 (d) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall require each
9 recipient of a grant to use a portion of the funds made
10 available through the grant to conduct an evaluation of
11 the effectiveness of the activities carried out through the
12 grant by such recipient.

13 (e) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall
14 coordinate with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in
15 awarding grants under this section.

16 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) ASSISTANCE DOG.—The term “assistance
18 dog” means a dog specifically trained to perform
19 physical tasks to mitigate the effects of a disability
20 described in subsection (b)(2), except that the term
21 does not include a dog specifically trained for com-
22 fort or personal defense.

23 (2) COVERED MEMBERS AND VETERANS.—The
24 term “covered members and veterans” means—

1 (A) with respect to a member of the
2 Armed Forces, such member who is—

3 (i) receiving medical treatment, recu-
4 peration, or therapy under chapter 55 of
5 title 10, United States Code;

6 (ii) in medical hold or medical hold-
7 over status; or

8 (iii) covered under section 1202 or
9 1205 of title 10, United States Code; and

10 (B) with respect to a veteran, a veteran
11 who is enrolled in the health care system estab-
12 lished under section 1705(a) of title 38, United
13 States Code.

