AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–19

OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following:

SEC. 7. WOUNDED WARRIOR SERVICE DOG PROGRAM.

(a) Grants Authorized.—Subject to the availability of appropriations provided for such purpose, the Secretary of Defense shall establish a program, to be known as the “Wounded Warrior Service Dog Program”, to award competitive grants to nonprofit organizations to assist such organizations in the planning, designing, establishing, or operating (or any combination thereof) of programs to provide assistance dogs to covered members.

(b) Use of Funds.—

(1) In general.—The recipient of a grant under this section shall use the grant to carry out programs that provide assistance dogs to covered members who have a disability described in paragraph (2).

(2) Disability.—A disability described in this paragraph is any of the following:
(A) Blindness or visual impairment.

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

(C) Loss of hearing.

(D) Traumatic brain injury.

(E) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

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

(3) Timing of Award.—The Secretary of Defense may not award a grant under this section to reimburse a recipient for costs previously incurred by the recipient in carrying out a program to provide assistance dogs to covered members unless the recipient elects for the award to be such a reimbursement.

(e) Eligibility.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a nonprofit organization shall submit an application to the Secretary of Defense at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require. Such application shall include—

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

(2) a description of—

(A) the training that will be provided by the organization to covered members;
(B) the training of dogs that will serve as
assistance dogs;

(C) the aftercare services that the organi-
ization will provide for such dogs and covered
members;

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

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

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

(G) the experience of the organization with
working with military medical treatment facili-
ties; and

(3) a statement certifying that the organiz-
ation—

(A) is accredited by Assistance Dogs Inter-
national, the International Guide Dog Federa-
tion, or another similar widely recognized ac-
creditation organization that the Secretaries de-
termine has accreditation standards that meet
or exceed the standards of Assistance Dogs
International and the International Guide Dog
Federation; or
(B) is a candidate for such accreditation or
otherwise meets or exceeds such standards, as
determined by the Secretary of Defense.

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

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

(2) COVERED MEMBER.—The term “covered
member” means a member of the Armed Forces who
is—

(B) receiving medical treatment, recuper-
ation, or therapy under chapter 55 of title 10,
United States Code;

(C) in medical hold or medical holdover
status; or

(D) covered under section 1202 or 1205 of
title 10, United States Code.
(f) INCREASE.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 1405 for Other Authorizations, Defense Health Program, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4501, for Consolidated Health Support is hereby increased by $11,000,000.

(g) OFFSET.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 301 for Operations and Maintenance, as specified in the corresponding funding table in section 4301, for Operations and Maintenance, Defense-Wide, Line 460, Office of the Secretary of Defense is hereby reduced by $11,000,000.