**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT**

**118–10**

**OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO**

Add at the end of subtitle G of title X the following new section:

SEC. ___. PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO ENROLL CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN BENEFITS AND SERVICES UNDER THE LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) **ESTABLISH AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT IN VA BENEFITS.**—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall carry out a program to—

(1) identify covered benefits, if any, for which each covered member of an Armed Force is eligible to enroll;

(2) notify each covered member of the relevant covered benefits identified under subparagraph (A); and
(3) expect as provided in subsection (e), ensure
such covered member is enrolled in such covered
benefits.

(b) Notification to Secretary of Veterans Af-
fairs.—With respect to any covered member of an Armed
Force the Secretary of Defense determines is eligible for
enrollment in a covered benefit, such Secretary shall, not
later than 90 days before the date on which such covered
member is separated from service, submit to the Secretary
of Veterans Affairs a notification that includes—

(1) the name, contact information, and military
service details of such covered member;

(2) the anticipated date on which such covered
member will be separated from service; and

(3) a description of any military occupational
specialty and training such covered member received
during service.

(c) Outreach Required.—Not later than 60 days
after any date on which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
receives a notification under subsection (b), such Sec-
etary shall contact the covered member of an Armed
Force described in such notification and provide materials
and resources relating to covered benefits.
(d) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall establish procedures to—

(1) share necessary information to facilitate the automatic enrollment process under subsection (a); and

(2) ensure the secure and confidential transfer of data during any such sharing of necessary information.

(e) OPT-OUT PROVISION.—The decision to enroll in a covered benefit pursuant to subsection (a) shall be at the election of the relevant covered member of an Armed Force.

(f) WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall establish a working group to address potential barriers and challenges in implementing the automatic enrollment process. The working group shall consist of representatives from the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and other relevant stakeholders as determined by such Secretaries.

(2) DUTIES.—The working group shall be responsible for—
(A) identifying potential barriers to implementation, such as legal, technological, or administrative challenges; and

(B) developing strategies and recommendations to overcome such potential barriers and ensure the successful implementation of automatic enrollments.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which such Secretaries establish the working group under paragraph (1), the head of such working group shall submit to Congress a report that includes findings, recommendations, and proposed timelines for implementation.

(g) GAO REPORT ON NOTICE OF AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of a study to determine the best methods for the Secretary of Defense to provide notice under subsection (a)(2). In making such determination, the Comptroller General shall consider needs of veterans based on—

(1) age;

(2) residence in urban areas; and

(3) residence in rural areas.
(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “covered benefit” means a benefit or service under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(2) The term “covered member of an Armed Force” means a member of the Armed Forces participating in the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense under section 1142 and 1144 of title 10, United States Code.