

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

118–10

OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

Add at the end of subtitle A of title VII the following:

1 **SEC. 7 ____ . STUDY ON PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT SERVICES.**

2 (a) **STUDY AND ROUNDTABLE.—**

3 (1) Not later than 180 days after the date of
4 the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of
5 Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall seek to
6 convene an industry roundtable and initiate a com-
7 prehensive study on the benefits of increasing active
8 service peer-to-peer mental health support services
9 and provide recommendations for their implementa-
10 tion.

11 (2) In this section, the term “peer-to-peer men-
12 tal health support services” refers to programs and
13 initiatives that facilitate support and assistance pro-
14 vided by trained active service members to their
15 peers, with the goal of promoting mental well-being,
16 resilience, and early intervention.

17 (b) **STUDY.—**The study shall include, but not be lim-
18 ited to, the following:

1 (1) An assessment of existing peer-to-peer men-
2 tal health support programs within the Department
3 of Defense and their effectiveness.

4 (2) An examination of best practices in peer-to-
5 peer mental health support services employed by
6 other organizations, both within and outside the de-
7 fense sector.

8 (3) An evaluation of the potential benefits, chal-
9 lenges, and limitations associated with expanding ac-
10 tive service peer-to-peer mental health support serv-
11 ices.

12 (4) An analysis of the potential impact on mili-
13 tary readiness, retention, and overall force resilience
14 resulting from increased utilization of peer-to-peer
15 mental health support services.

16 (5) Recommendations for the implementation,
17 funding, and sustainability of expanded active serv-
18 ice peer-to-peer mental health support services, in-
19 cluding any necessary policy changes or legislative
20 actions.

21 (c) REPORT.—

22 (1) Not later than one year after the initiation
23 of the study, the Under Secretary of Defense shall
24 submit a report to the Committee on Armed Services
25 of the House of Representatives and the Committee

1 on Armed Services of the Senate detailing the find-
2 ings, conclusions, and recommendations resulting
3 from the study and industry roundtable.

4 (2) The report shall include a comprehensive
5 plan of action, including proposed timelines, mile-
6 stones, and resource requirements, for the imple-
7 mentation of the recommended active service peer-
8 to-peer mental health support services.

9 (d) INDUSTRY ROUNDTABLE.—Not later than 180
10 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under
11 Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall
12 seek to convene an industry roundtable to discuss the ben-
13 efits of increasing active service peer-to-peer mental health
14 support services and provide recommendations for their
15 implementation. Such discussion shall include the fol-
16 lowing elements:

17 (1) The value of, and opportunities to, peer-to-
18 peer mental health support services.

19 (2) Career opportunities for active service mem-
20 bers.

21 (3) Understanding the challenges that service
22 members encounter when seeking outside mental
23 health support services.

24 (4) Best hiring practices from industry leaders
25 in human resources.

1 (5) The benefits of portable licenses and inter-
2 state licensure compacts for service members seeking
3 to transition from peer-to-peer mental health sup-
4 port work after their service.

5 (e) PARTICIPANTS.—The participants in the round-
6 table shall include the following:

7 (1) The Under Secretary.

8 (2) The Assistant Secretary for Defense for
9 Health Affairs.

10 (3) The Director of the Defense Human Re-
11 sources Activity.

12 (4) Other officials of the Department of De-
13 fense or the Secretary of Defense determines appro-
14 priate.

15 (5) Private entities that elect to participate.

16 (f) NOTICE.—The Under Secretary shall publish no-
17 tice of the roundtable in multiple private sector forums
18 and the Federal Register to encourage participation in the
19 roundtable by private entities and entities interested in
20 supporting the advancement of peer-to-peer mental health
21 support services.

22 (d) BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after the
23 date of the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under
24 Secretary of Defense shall provide a briefing to the Com-
25 mittee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives

1 and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate on
2 the lessons learned from the roundtable, including the rec-
3 ommendation of the Secretary whether to convene the
4 roundtable annually.

