

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT**

**119–8**

**OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO**

At the appropriate place in subtitle B of title XVII,  
insert the following:

1 **SECTION 17\_\_\_\_. PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
2 **TO ENROLL CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE**  
3 **ARMED FORCES IN BENEFITS AND SERVICES**  
4 **UNDER THE LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE**  
5 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the  
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of De-  
8 fense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
9 fairs, shall carry out a program to—

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

13 (2) notify each covered member of the relevant  
14 covered benefits identified under subparagraph (A);  
15 and

16 (3) expect as provided in subsection (e), ensure  
17 such covered member is enrolled in such covered  
18 benefits.

1 (b) NOTIFICATION TO SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-  
2 FAIRS.—With respect to any covered member of an Armed  
3 Force the Secretary of Defense determines is eligible for  
4 enrollment in a covered benefit, such Secretary shall, not  
5 later than 90 days before the date on which such covered  
6 member is separated from service, submit to the Secretary  
7 of Veterans Affairs a notification that includes—

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

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

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

15 (c) OUTREACH REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days  
16 after any date on which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
17 receives a notification under subsection (b), such Sec-  
18 retary shall contact the covered member of an Armed  
19 Force described in such notification and provide materials  
20 and resources relating to covered benefits.

21 (d) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary of De-  
22 fense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
23 fairs, shall establish procedures to—

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

4 (2) ensure the secure and confidential transfer  
5 of data during any such sharing of necessary infor-  
6 mation.

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

11 (f) WORKING GROUP.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in  
13 consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,  
14 shall establish a working group to address potential  
15 barriers and challenges in implementing the auto-  
16 matic enrollment process. The working group shall  
17 consist of representatives from the Department of  
18 Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and  
19 other relevant stakeholders as determined by such  
20 Secretaries.

21 (2) DUTIES.—The working group shall be re-  
22 sponsible for—

23 (A) identifying potential barriers to imple-  
24 mentation, such as legal, technological, or ad-  
25 ministrative challenges; and

1 (B) developing strategies and recommenda-  
2 tions to overcome such potential barriers and  
3 ensure the successful implementation of auto-  
4 matic enrollments.

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

11 (g) GAO REPORT ON NOTICE OF AUTOMATIC EN-  
12 ROLLMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of  
13 the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the  
14 United States shall submit to Congress a report con-  
15 taining the results of a study to determine the best meth-  
16 ods for the Secretary of Defense to provide notice under  
17 subsection (a)(2). In making such determination, the  
18 Comptroller General shall consider needs of veterans  
19 based on—

- 20 (1) age;  
21 (2) residence in urban areas; and  
22 (3) residence in rural areas.

23 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) The term “covered benefit” means a benefit  
2           or service under the laws administered by the Sec-  
3           retary of Veterans Affairs.

4           (2) The term “covered member of an Armed  
5           Force” means a member of the Armed Forces par-  
6           ticipating in the Transition Assistance Program of  
7           the Department of Defense under section 1142 and  
8           1144 of title 10, United States Code.

