

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

118–36

OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

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

1 **SEC. ____ . PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO EN-**
2 **ROLL CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
3 **FORCES IN BENEFITS AND SERVICES UNDER**
4 **THE LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SEC-**
5 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISH AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT IN VA
7 BENEFITS.—Not later than two years after the date of
8 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and
9 the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard
10 is operating when it is not operating as a service in the
11 Navy, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Af-
12 fairs, shall carry out a program to—

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

16 (2) notify each covered member of the relevant
17 covered benefits identified under subparagraph (A);
18 and

1 (3) expect as provided in subsection (e), ensure
2 such covered member is enrolled in such covered
3 benefits.

4 (b) NOTIFICATION TO SECRETARY OF VETERANS AF-
5 FAIRS.—With respect to any covered member of an Armed
6 Force the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the
7 department in which the Coast Guard is operating when
8 it is not operating as a service in the Navy determine is
9 eligible for enrollment in a covered benefit, the relevant
10 Secretary shall, not later than 90 days before the date on
11 which such covered member is separated from service, sub-
12 mit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a notification that
13 includes—

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

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

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

21 (c) OUTREACH REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days
22 after any date on which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
23 receives a notification under subsection (b), the relevant
24 Secretary shall contact the covered member of an Armed

1 Force described in such notification and provide materials
2 and resources relating to covered benefits.

3 (d) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary of De-
4 fense and the Secretary of the department in which the
5 Coast Guard is operating when it is not operating as a
6 service in the Navy, in coordination with the Secretary of
7 Veterans Affairs, shall establish procedures to—

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

11 (2) ensure the secure and confidential transfer
12 of data during any such sharing of necessary infor-
13 mation.

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

18 (f) WORKING GROUP ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in
20 consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
21 and the Secretary of the department in which the
22 Coast Guard is operating when it is not operating as
23 a service in the Navy, shall establish a working
24 group to address potential barriers and challenges in
25 implementing the automatic enrollment process. The

1 working group shall consist of representatives from
2 the Department of Defense, the department in which
3 the Coast Guard is operating when it is not oper-
4 ating as a service in the Navy, the Department of
5 Veterans Affairs, and other relevant stakeholders as
6 determined by such Secretaries.

7 (2) DUTIES.—The working group shall be re-
8 sponsible for—

9 (A) identifying potential barriers to imple-
10 mentation, such as legal, technological, or ad-
11 ministrative challenges; and

12 (B) developing strategies and recommenda-
13 tions to overcome such potential barriers and
14 ensure the successful implementation of auto-
15 matic enrollments.

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

22 (g) GAO REPORT ON NOTICE OF AUTOMATIC EN-
23 ROLLMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of
24 the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
25 United States shall submit to Congress a report con-

1 taining the results of a study to determine the best meth-
2 ods for the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the
3 department in which the Coast Guard is operating when
4 it is not operating as a service in the Navy to provide no-
5 tice under subsection (a)(2). In making such determina-
6 tion, the Comptroller General shall consider needs of vet-
7 erans based on—

- 8 (1) age;
- 9 (2) residence in urban areas; and
- 10 (3) residence in rural areas.

11 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

15 (2) The term “covered member of an Armed
16 Force” means a member of the Armed Forces par-
17 ticipating in the Transition Assistance Program of
18 the Department of Defense under section 1142 and
19 1144 of title 10, United States Code.

