

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 119-33
OFFERED BY MR. NEWHOUSE OF WASHINGTON

At the end of subtitle B of title XVII, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 17__ . PROVIDING ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS**
2 **FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, DE-**
3 **PENDENTS, AND VETERANS IN RURAL AREAS.**

4 Section 1820(c)(2) of the Social Security Act (42
5 U.S.C. 1395i-4(c)(2)) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (B)(i), by inserting “sub-
7 ject to subparagraph (F),” before “is a hospital”;

8 (2) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking “The
9 total” and inserting “Subject to subparagraph (F),
10 the total”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 paragraph:

13 “(F) ESSENTIAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS
14 FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES, DE-
15 PENDENTS, AND VETERANS IN RURAL AREAS.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Beginning Octo-
17 ber 1, 2026, a State may designate a facil-
18 ity as a critical access hospital without re-

1 gard to the criteria under subparagraph
2 (B)(i) if the facility meets 3 or more of the
3 following criteria:

4 “(I) The hospital—

5 “(aa) delivers health care
6 services to individuals covered
7 under the TRICARE program
8 (as defined in section 1072 of
9 title 10, United States Code) and
10 veterans enrolled in the patient
11 enrollment system under section
12 1705 of title 38, United States
13 Code, living in rural areas; and

14 “(bb) is located in a county
15 (or equivalent unit of local gov-
16 ernment) in a rural area (as de-
17 fined in section 1886(d)(2)(D))
18 or is treated as being located in
19 a rural area pursuant to section
20 1886(d)(8)(E), or is located in
21 an area that otherwise meets the
22 definition of rural established by
23 the Federal Office of Rural
24 Health Policy.

1 “(II) The hospital is not a sole
2 community hospital (as defined in sec-
3 tion 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii)).

4 “(III) At the time of designation,
5 8 percent or more of the annual gross
6 revenue of the hospital and its pro-
7 vider-based departments, including af-
8 filiated outpatient department and
9 provider-based clinics, is derived from
10 services provided to individuals cov-
11 ered under the TRICARE program.

12 “(IV) At the time of designation,
13 15 percent or more of the annual
14 gross revenue from labor and delivery
15 services of the hospital is derived from
16 services provided to individuals cov-
17 ered under the TRICARE program.

18 “(V) The hospital is located on a
19 reservation (as defined in section 4 of
20 the Indian Health Care Improvement
21 Act).

22 “(ii) PSYCHIATRIC AND REHABILITA-
23 TION DISTINCT PART UNITS.—A facility
24 described in clause (i) may establish a dis-
25 tinct part unit under subparagraph (E)

1 without regard to the limitation on number
2 of beds under clause (ii) of such subpara-
3 graph. The Secretary may not take a dis-
4 tinct part unit so established by such facil-
5 ity into account when determining whether
6 such facility is primarily engaged in pro-
7 viding the services described in section
8 1861(e)(1).”.

