

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-

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OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA

At the end of subtitle C of title XVIII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 18__ . PILOT PROGRAM ON ACTIVITIES UNDER THE**
2 **PRE-SEPARATION TRANSITION PROCESS OF**
3 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR A RE-**
4 **DUCTION IN SUICIDE AMONG VETERANS.**

5 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of
6 Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly
7 carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and ad-
8 visability of providing the module described in subsection
9 (b) and services under subsection (c) as part of the pre-
10 separation transition process for members of the Armed
11 Forces as a means of reducing the incidence of suicide
12 among veterans.

13 (b) MODULE.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The module described in this
15 subsection shall include the following:

16 (A) An in-person meeting between a cohort
17 of members of the Armed Forces participating

1 in the pilot program and a social worker or
2 nurse in which the social worker or nurse—

3 (i) educates the cohort on resources
4 for and specific potential risks confronting
5 such members after discharge or release
6 from the Armed Forces, including—

7 (I) loss of community or a sup-
8 port system;

9 (II) isolation from family,
10 friends, or society;

11 (III) identity crisis in the transi-
12 tion from military to civilian life;

13 (IV) vulnerability viewed as a
14 weakness;

15 (V) need for empathy;

16 (VI) self-medication and addic-
17 tion;

18 (VII) importance of sleep and ex-
19 ercise;

20 (VIII) homelessness; and

21 (IX) risk factors contributing to
22 attempts of suicide and deaths by sui-
23 cide;

24 (ii) educates the cohort on—

1 (I) the signs and symptoms of
2 suicide risk and physical, psycho-
3 logical, or neurological issues, such as
4 post-traumatic stress disorder, trau-
5 matic brain injury, chronic pain, sleep
6 disorders, substance use disorders, ad-
7 verse childhood experiences, depres-
8 sion, bipolar disorder, and socio-eco-
9 logical concerns, such as homeless-
10 ness, unemployment, and relationship
11 strain;

12 (II) the potential risks for mem-
13 bers of the Armed Forces from such
14 issues after discharge or release from
15 the Armed Forces; and

16 (III) the resources and treatment
17 options available to such members for
18 such issues through the Department
19 of Veterans Affairs, the Department
20 of Defense, and non-profit organiza-
21 tions;

22 (iii) educates the cohort about the re-
23 sources available to victims of military sex-
24 ual trauma through the Department of
25 Veterans Affairs; and

1 (iv) educates the cohort about the
2 manner in which members might experi-
3 ence challenges during the transition from
4 military to civilian life, and the resources
5 available to them through the Department
6 of Veterans Affairs, the Department of De-
7 fense, and other organizations.

8 (B) The provision to each member of the
9 cohort of contact information for a counseling
10 or other appropriate facility of the Department
11 of Veterans Affairs in the locality in which such
12 member intends to reside after discharge or re-
13 lease.

14 (C) The submittal by each member of the
15 cohort to the Department of Veterans Affairs
16 (including both the Veterans Health Adminis-
17 tration and the Veterans Benefits Administra-
18 tion) of their medical records in connection with
19 service in the Armed Forces, whether or not
20 such members intend to file a claim with the
21 Department for benefits with respect to any
22 service-connected disability.

23 (2) COMPOSITION OF COHORT.—Each cohort
24 participating in the module described in this sub-

1 section shall be comprised of not fewer than 50 indi-
2 viduals.

3 (c) SERVICES.—In carrying out the pilot program,
4 the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans
5 Affairs shall provide to each individual participating in the
6 pilot program the following services:

7 (1) During the transition process and prior to
8 discharge or release from the Armed Forces, a one-
9 on-one meeting with a social worker or nurse of the
10 Department of Veterans Affairs who will—

11 (A) conduct an assessment of the indi-
12 vidual regarding eligibility to receive health care
13 or counseling services from the Department of
14 Veterans Affairs;

15 (B) for those eligible, or likely to be eligi-
16 ble, to receive health care or counseling services
17 from the Department of Veterans Affairs—

18 (i) identify and provide contact infor-
19 mation for an appropriate facility of the
20 Department of Veterans Affairs in the lo-
21 cality in which such individual intends to
22 reside after discharge or release;

23 (ii) facilitate registration or enroll-
24 ment in the system of patient enrollment
25 of the Department of Veterans Affairs

1 under section 1705(a) of title 38, United
2 States Code, if applicable;

3 (iii) educate the individual about care,
4 benefits, and services available to the indi-
5 vidual through the Veterans Health Ad-
6 ministration; and

7 (iv) coordinate health care based on
8 the health care needs of the individual, if
9 applicable, to include establishing an initial
10 appointment, at the election of the indi-
11 vidual, to occur not later than 90 days
12 after the date of discharge or release of the
13 member from the Armed Forces.

14 (2) For each individual determined ineligible for
15 care and services from the Department of Veterans
16 Affairs during the transition process, the Secretary
17 of Defense shall conduct an assessment of the indi-
18 vidual to determine the needs of the individual and
19 appropriate follow-up, which shall be identified and
20 documented in the appropriate records of the De-
21 partment of Defense.

22 (3) During the appointment scheduled pursuant
23 to paragraph (1)(B)(iv), the Secretary of Veterans
24 Affairs shall conduct an assessment of the individual
25 to determine the needs of the individual and appro-

1 appropriate follow-up, which shall be identified and docu-
2 mented in the appropriate records of the Depart-
3 ment of Veterans Affairs.

4 (d) LOCATIONS.—

5 (1) MODULE AND MEETING.—The module
6 under subsection (b) and the one-on-one meeting
7 under subsection (c)(1) shall be carried out at not
8 fewer than 10 locations of the Department of De-
9 fense that serve not fewer than 300 members of the
10 Armed Forces annually that are jointly selected by
11 the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Vet-
12 erans Affairs for purposes of the pilot program.

13 (2) ASSESSMENT AND APPOINTMENT.—The as-
14 sessment under subsection (c)(2) and the appoint-
15 ment under subsection (c)(3) may occur at any loca-
16 tion determined appropriate by the Secretary of De-
17 fense or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, as the
18 case may be.

19 (3) MEMBERS SERVED.—The locations selected
20 under paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable,
21 be locations that, whether individually or in aggre-
22 gate, serve all the Armed Forces and both the reg-
23 ular and reserve components of the Armed Forces.

24 (e) SELECTION AND COMMENCEMENT.—The Sec-
25 retary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs

1 shall jointly select the locations of the pilot program under
2 subsection (d)(1) and commence carrying out activities
3 under the pilot program by not later than September 30,
4 2024.

5 (f) DURATION.—The duration of the pilot program
6 shall be five years.

7 (g) REPORTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
9 after the commencement of the pilot program, and
10 annually thereafter during the duration of the pilot
11 program, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary
12 of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appro-
13 priate committees of Congress a report on the activi-
14 ties under the pilot program.

15 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by para-
16 graph (1) shall include the following:

17 (A) The demographic information of the
18 members and former members of the Armed
19 Forces who participated in the pilot program
20 during the one-year period ending on the date
21 of such report.

22 (B) A description of the activities under
23 the pilot program during such period.

24 (C) An assessment of the benefits of the
25 activities under the pilot program during such

1 period to members and former members of the
2 Armed Forces.

3 (D) An assessment of whether the activi-
4 ties under the pilot program as of the date of
5 such report have met the targeted outcomes of
6 the pilot program among members and former
7 members who participated in the pilot program
8 within one year of discharge or release from the
9 Armed Forces.

10 (E) Such recommendations as the Sec-
11 retary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans
12 Affairs jointly consider appropriate regarding
13 the feasibility and advisability of expansion of
14 the pilot program, extension of the pilot pro-
15 gram, or both.

16 (h) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
17 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
18 tees of Congress” means—

19 (1) the Committee on Armed Services and the
20 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

21 (2) the Committee on Armed Services and the
22 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of
23 Representatives.

