

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-

26

OFFERED BY MR. PHILLIPS OF MINNESOTA

Add at the end the following:

1 **SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE FUR-**
2 **NISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
3 **AFFAIRS IN CERTAIN STATES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Veterans'
7 Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives
8 a report regarding mental health care furnished by the
9 Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans in each cov-
10 ered State.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection (a)
12 shall include, with respect to covered States, the following:

13 (1) An assessment of the ability of the Depart-
14 ment to furnish to veterans—

15 (A) readjustment counseling;

16 (B) therapy for post-traumatic stress dis-
17 order and other trauma-related therapy;

18 (C) group counseling;

19 (D) marriage and family counseling;

- 1 (E) military sexual trauma counseling;
- 2 (F) bereavement counseling;
- 3 (G) screenings and referrals for medical
4 issues;
- 5 (H) substance abuse assessments and re-
6 ferrals;
- 7 (I) employment assessments and referrals;
8 and
- 9 (J) explanations and referrals regarding
10 benefits furnished through the Veterans Bene-
11 fits Administration of the Department.
- 12 (2) An assessment of the feasibility of estab-
13 lishing additional Vet Centers.
- 14 (3) An assessment of the feasibility of increas-
15 ing staff at existing Vet Centers to ensure com-
16 prehensive coverage, including with respect to bar-
17 riers regarding—
- 18 (A) demonstrating a need for additional
19 Vet Centers, mobile Vet Centers, and commu-
20 nity access points;
- 21 (B) including drive time as a measure of
22 productivity while conducting outreach to un-
23 derserved areas; and
- 24 (C) building a new Vet Center.

1 (4) An analysis of staffing shortages at Vet
2 Centers, including delays in approving and proc-
3 essing new hires.

4 (5) An outreach strategy for using mobile Vet
5 Centers, Vet Center outstations, and community ac-
6 cess points to ensure that mental health care serv-
7 ices reach veterans in underserved areas.

8 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) The term “covered State” means each State
10 (including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico,
11 and any territory or possession of the United States)
12 that has a ratio of one Vet Center per 100,000 or
13 more veterans who reside in such State (as such
14 population is determined by the Secretary of Vet-
15 erans Affairs, acting through the National Center
16 for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, for fiscal year
17 2021).

18 (2) The term “Vet Center” has the meaning
19 given that term in section 1712A of title 38, United
20 States Code, including with respect to Vet Center
21 outstations, but not including mobile Vet Centers.

