

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT  
OF H.R. 4310  
OFFERED BY MS. PINGREE OF MAINE**

At the end of subtitle H of title V, add the following  
new section:

1 **SEC. 584. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON MILITARY SEXUAL**  
2 **TRAUMA.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) The Department of Defense conducted a  
5 survey of members of the Armed Forces serving on  
6 active duty that revealed that only 13.5 percent of  
7 such members reported incidents of sexual assault,  
8 which means that more than 19,000 incidents of  
9 sexual assault of members of the Armed Forces ac-  
10 tually occurred in 2010 alone.

11 (2) Despite attempts, the Department of De-  
12 fense has failed to address the chronic under report-  
13 ing of incidents of sexual assault and harassment, as  
14 by the Department's own estimates, 86 percent of  
15 sexual assaults went unreported in 2010.

16 (3) Sexual assault in the military is an ongoing  
17 problem leading many victims to seek help after sep-

1 aration from the Armed Forces from the Depart-  
2 ment of Veterans Affairs.

3 (4) About 1 in 5 women and 1 in 100 men seen  
4 in Veterans Health Administration respond “Yes”  
5 when screened for military sexual trauma.

6 (5) Among users of healthcare provided by the  
7 Department of Veterans Affairs, medical record data  
8 indicates that diagnoses of post-traumatic stress dis-  
9 order and other anxiety disorders, depression and  
10 other mood disorders, and substance use disorders  
11 are most frequently associated with military sexual  
12 trauma.

13 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
14 gress that—

15 (1) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should ex-  
16 pand efforts to raise awareness about military sexual  
17 trauma and the treatment and services that the De-  
18 partment provides to victims; and

19 (2) in light of the fact that the available data  
20 shows an overwhelming number of military sexual  
21 trauma claims go unreported within the Department  
22 of Defense, making it very difficult for veterans to  
23 show proof of the assault when filing claims with the  
24 Department of Veterans Affairs for post-traumatic  
25 stress disorder and other mental health conditions

1       caused by military sexual trauma, the Secretary of  
2       Veterans Affairs should review the disability process  
3       to ensure that victims of military sexual trauma who  
4       file claims for service connection do not face unne-  
5       cessary or overly burdensome requirements in order  
6       to claim disability benefits with the Department.

