

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM PRINT 114-51**  
**OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO OF CALIFORNIA**

At the end of subtitle A of title V, page 117, after line 13, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 5 \_\_\_\_ . DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON ACCESSION OF**  
2 **CANDIDATES WITH AUDITORY IMPAIRMENTS**  
3 **AS AIR FORCE OFFICERS.**

4 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Begin-  
5 ning not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-  
6 ment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force shall carry  
7 out a demonstration program to assess the feasibility and  
8 advisability of permitting individuals with auditory impair-  
9 ments (including deafness) to access as officers of the Air  
10 Force.

11 (b) CANDIDATES.—

12 (1) NUMBER OF CANDIDATES.—The total num-  
13 ber of individuals with auditory impairments who  
14 may participate in the demonstration program shall  
15 be not fewer than 15 individuals or more than 20 in-  
16 dividuals.

17 (2) MIX AND RANGE OF AUDITORY IMPAIR-  
18 MENTS.—The individuals who participate in the  
19 demonstration program shall include individuals who

1       are deaf and individuals who have a range of other  
2       auditory impairments.

3               (3) QUALIFICATION FOR ACCESSION.—Any indi-  
4       vidual who is chosen to participate in the demonstra-  
5       tion program shall meet all essential qualifications  
6       for accession as an officer in the Air Force, other  
7       than those related to having an auditory impair-  
8       ment.

9       (c) SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS.—

10              (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Air  
11       Force shall—

12              (A) publicize the demonstration program  
13       nationally, including to individuals who have  
14       auditory impairments and would be otherwise  
15       qualified for officer training;

16              (B) create a process whereby interested in-  
17       dividuals can apply for the demonstration pro-  
18       gram; and

19              (C) select the participants for the dem-  
20       onstration program, from among the pool of ap-  
21       plicants, based on the criteria in subsection (b).

22              (2) NO PRIOR SERVICE AS AIR FORCE OFFI-  
23       CERS.—Participants selected for the demonstration  
24       program shall be individuals who have not previously  
25       served as officers in the Air Force.

1 (d) BASIC OFFICER TRAINING.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The participants in the dem-  
3 onstration program shall undergo, at the election of  
4 the Secretary of the Air Force, the Basic Officer  
5 Training course or the Commissioned Officer Train-  
6 ing course at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

7 (2) NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.—Once individ-  
8 uals begin participating in the demonstration pro-  
9 gram, each Basic Officer Training course or Com-  
10 missioned Officer Training course at Maxwell Air  
11 Force Base, Alabama, shall include not fewer than  
12 4, or more than 6, participants in the demonstration  
13 program until all participants have completed such  
14 training.

15 (3) AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES.—The Sec-  
16 retary of Defense shall ensure that participants in  
17 the demonstration program have the necessary auxil-  
18 iary aids and services (as that term is defined in sec-  
19 tion 4 of the Americans With Disabilities Act of  
20 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12103)) in order to fully partici-  
21 pate in the demonstration program.

22 (e) COORDINATION.—

23 (1) SPECIAL ADVISOR.—The Secretary of the  
24 Air Force shall designate a special advisor to the  
25 demonstration program to act as a resource for par-

1 participants in the demonstration program, as well as a  
2 liaison between participants in the demonstration  
3 program and those providing the officer training.

4 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The special advisor shall  
5 be a member of the Armed Forces on active duty—

6 (A) who—

7 (i) if a commissioned officer, shall be  
8 in grade O–3 or higher; or

9 (ii) if an enlisted member, shall be in  
10 grade E–5 or higher; and

11 (B) who is knowledgeable about issues in-  
12 volving, and accommodations for, individuals  
13 with auditory impairments (including deafness).

14 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The special advisor  
15 shall be responsible for facilitating the officer train-  
16 ing for participants in the demonstration program,  
17 intervening and resolving issues and accommoda-  
18 tions during the training, and such other duties as  
19 the Secretary of the Air Force may assign to facili-  
20 tate the success of the demonstration program and  
21 participants.

22 (f) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date  
23 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air  
24 Force shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-

1 gress a report on the demonstration program. The report  
2 shall include the following:

3 (1) A description of the demonstration program  
4 and the participants in the demonstration program.

5 (2) The outcome of the demonstration program,  
6 including—

7 (A) the number of participants in the dem-  
8 onstration program that successfully completed  
9 the Basic Officer Training course or the Com-  
10 missioned Officer Training course;

11 (B) the number of participants in the dem-  
12 onstration program that were recommended for  
13 continued military service;

14 (C) the issues that were encountered dur-  
15 ing the program; and

16 (D) such recommendation for modifications  
17 to the demonstration program as the Secretary  
18 considers appropriate to increase further inclu-  
19 sion of individuals with auditory disabilities  
20 serving as officers in the Air Force or other  
21 Armed Forces.

22 (3) Such recommendations for legislative or ad-  
23 ministrative action as the Secretary considers appro-  
24 priate in light of the demonstration program.

1           (g) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-  
2 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-  
3 tees of Congress” means—

4           (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the  
5           Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-  
6           sions, and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
7           Senate; and

8           (2) the Committee on Armed Services and the  
9           Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
10          resentatives.

