

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 115-  
70  
OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO OF CALIFORNIA**

Page 109, after line 21, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 507. 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

1 demonstration program shall include individuals who  
2 are deaf and individuals who have a range of other  
3 auditory impairments.

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

10 (c) SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS.—

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

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

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

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

23 (2) NO PRIOR SERVICE AS AIR FORCE OFFI-  
24 CERS.—Participants selected for the demonstration

1 program shall be individuals who have not previously  
2 served as officers in the Air Force.

3 (d) BASIC OFFICER TRAINING.—

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

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

17 (3) AUXILIARY AIDS AND SERVICES.—The Sec-  
18 retary of Defense shall ensure that participants in  
19 the demonstration program have the necessary auxil-  
20 iary aids and services (as that term is defined in sec-  
21 tion 4 of the Americans With Disabilities Act of  
22 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12103)) in order to fully partici-  
23 pate in the demonstration program.

24 (e) COORDINATION.—

1           (1) SPECIAL ADVISOR.—The Secretary of the  
2 Air Force shall designate a special advisor to the  
3 demonstration program to act as a resource for par-  
4 ticipants in the demonstration program, as well as a  
5 liaison between participants in the demonstration  
6 program and those providing the officer training.

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

9                   (A) who—

10                           (i) if a commissioned officer, shall be  
11 in grade O-3 or higher; or

12                           (ii) if an enlisted member, shall be in  
13 grade E-5 or higher; and

14                   (B) who is knowledgeable about issues in-  
15 volving, and accommodations for, individuals  
16 with auditory impairments (including deafness).

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

1 (f) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date  
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air  
3 Force shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-  
4 gress a report on the demonstration program. The report  
5 shall include the following:

6 (1) A description of the demonstration program  
7 and the participants in the demonstration program.

8 (2) The outcome of the demonstration program,  
9 including—

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

14 (B) the number of participants in the dem-  
15 onstration program that were recommended for  
16 continued military service;

17 (C) the issues that were encountered dur-  
18 ing the program; and

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

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

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

7           (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the  
8           Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-  
9           sions, and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
10          Senate; and

11          (2) the Committee on Armed Services and the  
12          Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
13          resentatives.

