AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116–19
OFFERED BY MS. TORRES SMALL OF NEW MEXICO

At the end of subtitle H of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10. PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE BROADBAND ACCESS TO MILITARY FAMILIES AND MEDICAL FACILITIES ON REMOTE AND ISOLATED BASES.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) PURPOSE.—In order to extend residential broadband internet access to the thousands of military families on military installations within the United States located in unserved rural areas, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Federal Communication Commission, shall carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary enters into an agreement with a broadband internet provider or providers to—

(A) provide broadband internet access to military families on installations within the United States located in unserved rural areas;
(B) ensure broadband internet is accessible in military hospitals and clinics to facilitate the expeditious use of telehealth services and electronic military records integration; and

(C) enhance broadband internet access that can support of military spouse employment, transition assistance for members of the Armed Forces, and workforce development.

(2) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program at no fewer than three military installations located in unserved rural areas.

(3) SERVICE PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that broadband internet service providers considered for participation in the pilot program—

(A) use low-cost broadband technologies, such as fixed wireless technologies, which are suitable for lower population density unserved and underserved rural areas; and

(B) possess the capability to expeditiously install and connect broadband internet capabilities on remote and isolated bases.

(4) FIFTH GENERATION INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES.—The pilot program under this section shall be carried out in ac—
cordance with the strategy and implementation plan
required under section 233 of this Act.

(b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days
after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
retary of Defense shall submit to the Committee on
Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the
Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on
Energy and Commerce of the House of Representa-
tives a report on the implementation of the pilot pro-
gram under subsection (a).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a list of the remote and isolated bases
selected by the Secretary for purposes of the
pilot program;

(B) an analysis of the success of the pilot
program on improving access to broadband for
families living on base, telehealth medicine serv-
ices, and the processing of electronic health
records;

(C) recommendations by the Secretary for
improving, expanding, or modifying the pro-
gram;
(D) recommendations from the Secretary, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Chairman of the Federal Communication Commission on aligning the pilot program with Federal rural broadband strategy and deployment efforts; and

(E) any other matters the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “broadband” means internet access providing throughput speeds of at least 25 Mbps downstream and at least 3 Mbps upstream and having no data consumption caps.

(2) The term “unserved rural areas” means those rural census blocks reported by broadband providers as lacking access to broadband on the Federal Communications Commission’s Form 477.