AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT
FOR H.R. 4435
OFFERED BY MS. VELÁZQUEZ OF NEW YORK

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

SEC. 5. MILITARY HAZING PREVENTION OVERSIGHT PANEL.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a panel to be known as the Military Hazing Prevention Oversight Panel (in this section referred to as the “Panel”).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Panel shall be composed of the following members:

(1) The Secretary of the Army or the Secretary’s designee.

(2) The Secretary of the Navy or the Secretary’s designee.

(3) The Secretary of the Air Force or the Secretary’s designee.

(4) The Secretary of Homeland Security (with respect to the Coast Guard) or the Secretary’s designee.

(5) Members appointed by the Secretary of Defense from among individuals who are not officers or
employees of any government and who have expertise in advocating for—

(A) women;

(B) racial or ethnic minorities;

(C) religious minorities; or

(D) gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender individuals.

(c) DUTIES.—The Panel shall—

(1) make recommendations to the Secretary concerned (as defined in section 101(a)(9) of title 10, United States Code) on the development of the policies, programs, and procedures to prevent and respond to hazing in the Armed Forces; and

(2) monitor any policies, programs, and procedures in place to prevent and respond to hazing in the Armed Forces and make recommendations to the Secretary concerned on ways to improve such policies, programs, and procedures.

(d) HAZING DESCRIBED.—For purposes of carrying out its duties under this section, the Panel shall use the definition of hazing contained in the August 28, 1997, Secretary of Defense Policy Memorandum, which defined hazing as any conduct whereby a member of the Armed Forces, regardless of branch or rank, without proper authority causes another member to suffer, or be exposed
3
to, any activity which is cruel, abusive, humiliating, op-
pressive, demeaning, or harmful. Soliciting or coercing an-
other person to perpetrate any such activity is also consid-
ered hazing. Hazing need not involve physical contact
among or between members of the Armed Forces. Hazing
can be verbal or psychological in nature. Actual or implied
consent to acts of hazing does not eliminate the culpability
of the perpetrator.

(e) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 180 days
after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Panel shall
hold its initial meeting.

(f) MEETINGS.—The Panel shall meet not less than
annually.