

**AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-**  
**10**  
**OFFERED BY MR. CARTWRIGHT OF**  
**PENNSYLVANIA**

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 7\_\_\_ . ORTHOTIC AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH.**

2 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the grants described  
3 in this section is to advance orthotic and prosthetic clinical  
4 care for members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and civil-  
5 ians who have undergone amputation, traumatic brain in-  
6 jury, and other serious physical injury as a result of com-  
7 bat or military experience.

8 (b) GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON PATIENT OUT-  
9 COMES.—The Secretary of Defense shall award grants to  
10 persons to carry out research on the following:

11 (1) The actions that can be taken to prevent  
12 amputation of limbs.

13 (2) The point in the course of patient treatment  
14 during which orthotic and prosthetic intervention is  
15 most effective.

1           (3) The orthotic interventions that are most ef-  
2           fective in treating the physical effects of traumatic  
3           brain injury.

4           (4) The patients that benefit most from par-  
5           ticular orthotic and prosthetic technologies.

6           (5) The orthotic and prosthetic services that  
7           best facilitate the return to active duty of members  
8           of the Armed Forces.

9           (6) The effect of the aging process on the use  
10          of prosthetics, including—

11                   (A) increased skin breakdown;

12                   (B) loss of balance;

13                   (C) falls; and

14                   (D) other issues that arise during the  
15          aging process.

16          (c) GRANTS ON MATERIALS RESEARCH.—The Sec-  
17          retary shall award grants to persons to carry out research  
18          on the following:

19                   (1) The improvement of existing materials used  
20                   in orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of im-  
21                   proving quality of life and health outcomes for indi-  
22                   viduals with limb loss.

23                   (2) The development of new materials used in  
24                   orthotics and prosthetics for the purpose of improv-

1       ing quality of life and health outcomes for individ-  
2       uals with limb loss.

3       (d) GRANTS ON TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH.—The Sec-  
4       retary shall award grants to persons to carry out research  
5       on the following:

6           (1) The improvement of existing orthotic and  
7       prosthetic technology and devices for the purpose of  
8       improving quality of life and health outcomes for in-  
9       dividuals with limb loss.

10          (2) The development of new orthotic and pros-  
11       thetic technology and devices for the purpose of im-  
12       proving quality of life and health outcomes for indi-  
13       viduals with limb loss.

14       (e) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—A person seeking  
15       the award of a grant under this section shall submit to  
16       the Secretary an application therefore in the form and ac-  
17       companied by such information as the Secretary shall re-  
18       quire.

19       (f) AWARD REQUIREMENTS.—

20           (1) PEER-REVIEWED PROPOSALS.—Grants  
21       under this section may be awarded only for research  
22       that is peer-reviewed.

23           (2) COMPETITIVE PROCEDURES.—Grants under  
24       this section shall be awarded through competitive  
25       procedures.

1 (g) GRANT USE.—A person awarded a grant under  
2 subsection (b), (c), or (d) shall use the grant amount to  
3 carry out the research described in the applicable sub-  
4 section.

5 (h) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the  
6 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,  
7 the Secretary of Defense shall, in consultation with the  
8 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, veterans, community-based  
9 clinicians, and expert researchers in the field of orthotics  
10 and prosthetics, submit to Congress a report setting forth  
11 the following:

12 (1) An agenda for orthotic and prosthetic re-  
13 search that identifies and prioritizes the most sig-  
14 nificant unanswered orthotic and prosthetic research  
15 questions pertinent to the provision of evidence-  
16 based clinical care to members of the Armed Forces,  
17 veterans, and civilians.

18 (2) For each report after the initial report  
19 under this subsection—

20 (A) a summary of how the grants awarded  
21 under subsection (b) are addressing the most  
22 significant orthotic and prosthetic needs; and

23 (B) the progress made towards resolving  
24 orthotic and prosthetic challenges facing mem-  
25 bers of the Armed Forces and veterans.

1 (i) VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term  
2 “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101  
3 of title 38, United States Code.

4 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
5 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2024 for the  
6 Department of Defense for the Defense Health Program,  
7 \$30,000,000 to carry out this section.

