## AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116– 57

## OFFERED BY MR. DAVID P. ROE OF TENNESSEE

Add at the end of subtitle D of title VII the following new section:

1	SEC. 746. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN ENTITIES
2	TO PROVIDE OR COORDINATE THE PROVI-
3	SION OF SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES
4	FOR ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND THEIR FAM-
5	ILIES.
6	(a) DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The
7	Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide financial as-
8	sistance to eligible entities approved under this section
9	through the award of grants to such entities to provide
10	or coordinate the provision of services to eligible individ-
11	uals and their families to reduce the risk of suicide. The
12	Secretary shall carry out this section in coordination with
13	the President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End
14	the National Tragedy of Suicide Task Force, to the extent
15	practicable.
16	(b) Award of Grants.—
17	(1) In general.—The Secretary shall award a
18	grant to each eligible entity for which the Secretary

1	has approved an application under subsection (e) to
2	provide or coordinate the provision of suicide preven-
3	tion services under this section.
4	(2) Grant amounts, intervals of payment,
5	AND MATCHING FUNDS.—In accordance with the
6	services being provided under a grant under this sec-
7	tion and the duration of those services, the Secretary
8	may—
9	(A) award up to \$750,000 per grant per
10	fiscal year;
11	(B) establish intervals of payment for the
12	administration of the grant; and
13	(C) establish a requirement for the recipi-
14	ent of the grant to provide matching funds in
15	a specified percentage.
16	(c) Distribution of Grants and Preference.—
17	(1) Distribution.—
18	(A) Priority.—In compliance with sub-
19	paragraphs (B) and (C), in determining how to
20	distribute grants under this section, the Sec-
21	retary may prioritize—
22	(i) rural communities;
23	(ii) Tribal lands;
24	(iii) territories;
25	(iv) medically underserved areas;

1	(v) areas with a high number or per-
2	centage of minority veterans or women vet-
3	erans;
4	(vi) areas with a high number or per-
5	centage of calls to the Veterans Crisis
6	Line.
7	(B) Areas with Need.—The Secretary
8	shall ensure that, to the extent practicable,
9	grants under this section are distributed—
10	(i) to provide services in areas of the
11	United States that have experienced high
12	rates of suicide by eligible individuals, in-
13	cluding suicide attempts; and
14	(ii) to eligible entities that can assist
15	eligible individuals at risk of suicide who
16	are not currently receiving health care fur-
17	nished by the Department of Veterans Af-
18	fairs.
19	(C) Geography.—In distributing grants
20	under subparagraph (B), the Secretary may
21	provide grants to eligible entities that furnish
22	services to eligible individuals and their families
23	in geographically dispersed areas.

1	(2) Preference.—The Secretary shall give
2	preference to eligible entities that have demonstrated
3	the ability to coordinate suicide prevention services.
4	(d) Requirements for Receipt of Grants.—
5	(1) Notification that services are from
6	DEPARTMENT.—Each entity receiving grants under
7	this section to provide suicide prevention services to
8	eligible individuals and their families shall notify the
9	recipients of such services that such services are
10	being paid for, in whole or in part, by the Depart-
11	ment.
12	(2) Development of Plan with Bene-
13	FICIARIES.—Any plan developed with respect to the
14	provision of suicide prevention services for an eligible
15	individual or their family shall be developed in con-
16	sultation with the eligible individual.
17	(3) COORDINATION.—An entity receiving grants
18	under this section shall—
19	(A) coordinate with the Secretary with re-
20	spect to the provision of clinical services to eli-
21	gible individuals in accordance with subsection
22	(l) or any other provisions of the law regarding
23	the delivery of health care by the Secretary;
24	(B) inform a veteran who receives assist-
25	ance under this section of the eligibility of the

1	veteran to enroll in the patient enrollment sys-
2	tem of the Department of Veterans Affairs es-
3	tablished and operated under section 1705 of
4	title 38, United States Code; and
5	(C) if such a veteran wishes to so enroll,
6	inform the veteran of the point of contact at
7	the nearest medical center of the Department
8	who can assist the veteran in such enrollment.
9	(4) Measurement and monitoring.—An en-
10	tity receiving grants under this section shall submit
11	to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs a description of
12	such tools and assessments the entity uses or will
13	use to determine the effectiveness of the services fur-
14	nished by the entity, including but not limited to—
15	(A) the effect of the services furnished by
16	the entity on the financial stability of the eligi-
17	ble individual;
18	(B) the mental resiliency and mental out-
19	look of the eligible individual; and
20	(C) the social support of the eligible indi-
21	vidual.
22	(5) Reports.—The Secretary—
23	(A) shall require each entity receiving
24	grants under this section to submit to the Sec-
25	retary an annual report that describes the

1	projects carried out with such grants during the
2	year covered by the report;
3	(B) shall specify to each such entity the
4	evaluation criteria and data and information, to
5	be submitted in such report; and
6	(C) may require such entities to submit to
7	the Secretary such additional reports as the
8	Secretary considers appropriate.
9	(e) Application for Grants.—
10	(1) In general.—An eligible entity seeking
11	grants under this section shall submit to the Sec-
12	retary an application therefor in such form, in such
13	manner, and containing such commitments and in-
14	formation as the Secretary considers necessary to
15	carry out this section.
16	(2) Matters to be included.—Each applica-
17	tion submitted by an eligible entity under paragraph
18	(1) shall contain the following:
19	(A) A description of the suicide prevention
20	services proposed to be provided by the eligible
21	entity and the identified need for those services.
22	(B) A detailed plan describing how the eli-
23	gible entity proposes to coordinate or deliver
24	suicide prevention services to eligible individ-
25	uals, including—

1	(i) an identification of the community
2	partners, if any, with which the eligible en-
3	tity proposes to work in delivering such
4	services;
5	(ii) a description of the arrangements
6	currently in place between the eligible enti-
7	ty and such partners; and
8	(iii) an identification of how long such
9	arrangements have been in place.
10	(C) A description of the eligible individuals
11	and their families proposed to be provided sui-
12	cide prevention services.
13	(D) Based on information and methods de-
14	veloped by the Secretary for purposes of this
15	subsection, an estimate of the number of eligi-
16	ble individuals at risk of suicide and their fami-
17	lies proposed to be provided suicide prevention
18	services, including the percentage of those eligi-
19	ble individuals who are not currently receiving
20	care furnished by the Department.
21	(E) Evidence of the experience of the eligi-
22	ble entity (and the proposed partners of the en-
23	tity, if any) in providing suicide prevention
24	services to individuals at risk of suicide, par-

1	ticularly to eligible individuals and their fami-
2	lies.
3	(F) A description of the managerial and
4	technological capacity of the eligible entity—
5	(i) to coordinate the provision of sui-
6	cide prevention services with the provision
7	of other services;
8	(ii) to assess on an on-going basis the
9	needs of eligible individuals and their fami-
10	lies for suicide prevention services;
11	(iii) to coordinate the provision of sui-
12	cide prevention services with the services of
13	the Department for which the individuals
14	are eligible;
15	(iv) to tailor suicide prevention serv-
16	ices to the needs of eligible individuals and
17	their families;
18	(v) to continuously seek new sources
19	of assistance to ensure the continuity of
20	suicide prevention services for eligible indi-
21	viduals and their families as long as they
22	are determined to be at risk of suicide; and
23	(vi) to measure the effects on the lives
24	of eligible individuals and their families

1	who receive such services provided by the
2	organization.
3	(G) Clearly defined objectives for the provi-
4	sion of such services.
5	(H) A description and physical address of
6	the primary location of the eligible entity.
7	(I) A description of the geographic area
8	and boundaries the eligible entity plans to serve
9	during the year for which the application ap-
10	plies.
11	(J) A description of the services the eligi-
12	ble entity proposes to delivery directly and a de-
13	scription of any services the eligible entity pro-
14	poses to deliver through an agreement with a
15	community partner, if any.
16	(K) The amount of grant funds proposed
17	to be made available to community partners, if
18	any, through agreements.
19	(L) A description of how the eligible entity
20	will assess the effectiveness of the provision of
21	grants under this section.
22	(M) A description of how the eligible entity
23	will determine the need of an eligible individual
24	for longitudinal care.

1	(N) Such additional application criteria as
2	the Secretary considers appropriate.
3	(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—
4	(1) In General.—The Secretary shall provide
5	training and technical assistance to eligible entities
6	in receipt of grants under this section regarding—
7	(A) the data required to be collected and
8	shared with the Department;
9	(B) the means of data collection and shar-
10	ing;
11	(C) familiarization with and appropriate
12	use of any tool to be used to measure the effec-
13	tiveness of the use of the grants provided; and
14	(D) the requirements for reporting under
15	subsection (d)(4) on services provided via such
16	grants.
17	(2) Provision of training and technical
18	ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide the train-
19	ing and technical assistance described in paragraph
20	(l) directly or through grants or contracts with ap-
21	propriate public or nonprofit entities.
22	(g) Administration of Grant Program.—
23	(1) Selection Criteria.—The Secretary, in
24	consultation with entities specified in paragraph (3),
25	shall establish criteria for the selection of eligible en-

1	tities that have submitted applications under sub-
2	section (e).
3	(2) Development of measures and
4	METRICS.—The Secretary shall develop, in consulta-
5	tion with entities specified in paragraph (3), the fol-
6	lowing:
7	(A) A framework for collecting and sharing
8	information about entities in receipt of grants
9	under this section for purposes of improving the
10	services available for eligible individuals and
11	their families, set forth by service type, locality,
12	and eligibility criteria.
13	(B) The measures to be used by each enti-
14	ty in receipt of grants under this section to de-
15	termine the effectiveness of the programming
16	being provided by such entity in improving
17	mental resiliency and mental outlook of eligible
18	individuals and their families.
19	(C) Metrics for measuring the effectiveness
20	of the provision of grants under this section.
21	(3) COORDINATION.—In developing a plan for
22	the design and implementation of the provision of
23	grants under this section, including criteria for the
24	award of grants, the Secretary shall consult with the
25	following:

1	(A) Veterans service organizations.
2	(B) National organizations representing
3	potential community partners of eligible entities
4	in providing supportive services to address the
5	needs of eligible individuals and their families,
6	including national organizations that—
7	(i) advocate for the needs of individ-
8	uals with or at risk of behavioral health
9	conditions;
10	(ii) represent mayors;
11	(iii) represent unions;
12	(iv) represent first responders; or
13	(v) represent chiefs of police and sher-
14	iffs.
15	(C) National organizations representing
16	members of the Armed Forces.
17	(D) Organizations with which the Depart-
18	ment has a current memoranda of agreement or
19	understanding related to mental health or sui-
20	cide prevention.
21	(E) State departments of veterans affairs.
22	(F) National organizations representing
23	members of the reserve components of the
24	Armed Forces.

1	(G) National organizations representing
2	members of the Coast Guard.
3	(H) Vet Centers.
4	(I) Organizations with experience in cre-
5	ating measurement tools for purposes of deter-
6	mining programmatic effectiveness.
7	(J) National Alliance on Mental Illness.
8	(K) The Centers for Disease Control and
9	Prevention, the Substance Abuse and Mental
10	Health Services Administration, the President's
11	Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End the
12	National Tragedy of Suicide Task Force, and
13	such other organizations as the Secretary con-
14	siders appropriate.
15	(4) REPORT ON GRANT CRITERIA.—Not later
16	than 30 days before notifying eligible entities of the
17	availability of funding under this section, the Sec-
18	retary shall submit to the appropriate committees of
19	Congress a report containing—
20	(A) criteria for the award of a grant under
21	this section;
22	(B) the tool to be used by the Department
23	to measure the effectiveness of the use of
24	grants provided under this section; and

1	(C) a framework for the sharing of infor-
2	mation about entities in receipt of grants under
3	this section.
4	(h) Information on Potential Eligible Indi-
5	VIDUALS.—
6	(1) In General.—The Secretary may make
7	available to recipients of grants under this section
8	certain information regarding potential eligible indi-
9	viduals of services for which such grant is provided.
10	(2) Information included.—The information
11	made available under paragraph (1) with respect to
12	potential eligible individuals may include the fol-
13	lowing:
14	(A) Confirmation of the status of a poten-
15	tial eligible individual as a veteran.
16	(B) Confirmation of whether a potential el-
17	igible individual is currently receiving care fur-
18	nished by the Department or has recently re-
19	ceived such care or benefits.
20	(i) Duration.—The authority of the Secretary to
21	provide grants under this section shall terminate on the
22	date that is three years after the date on which the first
23	grant is awarded under this section.
24	(j) Reporting.—
25	(1) Interim report.—

1	(A) In General.—Not later than 18
2	months after the date on which the first grant
3	is awarded under this section, the Secretary
4	shall submit to the appropriate committees of
5	Congress a report on the provision of grants to
6	eligible entities under this section.
7	(B) Elements.—The report submitted
8	under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
9	lowing:
10	(i) An assessment of the effectiveness
11	of the grant program under this section.
12	(ii) A list of grant recipients and their
13	partner organizations, if any, that deliv-
14	ered services funded by the grant and the
15	amount of such grant received by each re-
16	cipient and partner organization.
17	(iii) The number of eligible individuals
18	supported by each grant recipient, includ-
19	ing through services provided to family
20	members disaggregated by—
21	(I) age;
22	(II) gender;
23	(III) whether each such eligible
24	individual is enrolled in the patient
25	enrollment system of the Department

1	under section 1705 of title 38, United
2	States Code;
3	(IV) type of service for which
4	such eligible individual was referred;
5	and
6	(V) the percentage of all such re-
7	ferrals made to the Department.
8	(iv) The number of eligible individuals
9	supported by grants under this section, in-
10	cluding through services provided to family
11	members.
12	(v) The number of eligible individuals
13	supported by grants under this section, in-
14	cluding through services provided to family
15	members, who were not previously receiv-
16	ing care furnished by the Department,
17	with specific numbers for the population of
18	eligible individuals described in subsection
19	(n)(3)(B).
20	(vi) The number of eligible individuals
21	whose mental resiliency and mental outlook
22	received a baseline measurement assess-
23	ment under this section and the number of
24	such eligible individuals whose mental re-
25	siliency and mental outlook will be meas-

1	ured by the Department or a community
2	partner over a period of time for any im-
3	provements.
4	(vii) The types of data the Depart-
5	ment was able to collect and share with
6	partners, including a characterization of
7	the benefits of that data.
8	(viii) The number and percentage of
9	eligible individuals referred to the point of
10	contact at the medical center of the De-
11	partment.
12	(ix) A detailed account of how the
13	grant funds were used, including executive
14	compensation, overhead costs, and other
15	indirect costs.
16	(x) A description of any outreach ac-
17	tivities conducted by the eligible entity
18	with respect to services provided using the
19	grant.
20	(xi) The number of individuals who
21	seek services from the grantee who were
22	not eligible individuals.
23	(C) The Secretary may require eligible en-
24	tities receiving grants under this section to pro-
25	vide such information as the Secretary deter-

1	mines necessary to report to Congress the ele-
2	ments provided in subparagraph (B).
3	(2) Final Report.—Not later than three years
4	after the date on which the first grant is awarded
5	under this section, and annually thereafter for every
6	year in which the program is in effect, the Secretary
7	shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
8	gress—
9	(A) a follow-up on the interim report sub-
10	mitted under paragraph (1) containing the ele-
11	ments set forth in subparagraph (B) of such
12	paragraph; and
13	(B) a report on—
14	(i) the effectiveness of the provision of
15	grants under this section, including the ef-
16	fectiveness of community partners in con-
17	ducting outreach to eligible individuals and
18	their families;
19	(ii) an assessment of the increased ca-
20	pacity of the Department to provide serv-
21	ices to eligible individuals and their fami-
22	lies, set forth by State, as a result of the
23	provision of grants under this section;

1	(iii) the feasibility and advisability of
2	extending or expanding the provision of
3	grants consistent with this section; and
4	(iv) such other elements as considered
5	appropriate by the Secretary.
6	(3) Third party assessment.—
7	(A) STUDY OF GRANT PROGRAM.—Not
8	later than 180 days after the commencement of
9	the grant program under this section, the Sec-
10	retary shall seek to enter into a contract with
11	an appropriate entity to conduct a study of the
12	grant program. In conducting such study, the
13	entity shall—
14	(i) evaluate the effectiveness of the
15	program in addressing the factors that
16	contribute to suicide through eligible enti-
17	ties located in communities; and
18	(ii) compare the results of the pro-
19	gram with other national programs in de-
20	livering resources to eligible individuals in
21	the communities where they live that ad-
22	dress the factors that contribute to suicide.
23	(B) Assessment.—
24	(i) IN GENERAL.—The contract under
25	paragraph (1) shall provide that not later

1	than 24 months after the commencement
2	of the grant program under this section,
3	the appropriate entity shall submit to the
4	Secretary an assessment based on the
5	study conducted pursuant to such contract.
6	(ii) Submittal to congress.—Upon
7	receipt of the assessment under subpara-
8	graph (A), the Secretary shall submit to
9	the appropriate committees of Congress a
10	copy of the assessment.
11	(C) Appropriate entity.—An appro-
12	priate entity described in this paragraph means
13	a nongovernment entity with experience opti-
14	mizing and assessing organizations that deliver
15	services.
16	(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17	authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
18	out this section a total of \$174,000,000 for fiscal years
19	2021 through 2025.
20	(l) Provision of Care to Eligible Individ-
21	UALS.—When the Secretary determines it is clinically ap-
22	propriate, the Secretary shall furnish to eligible individ-
23	uals receiving support through grants provided under this
24	section with an initial mental health assessment and men-
25	tal health or behavioral health care services authorized

1	under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, that are
2	required to treat the mental or behavioral health care
3	needs of the eligible individual, including risk of suicide.
4	(m) Agreements With Community Partners.—
5	The eligible entity may use grant funds to enter into an
6	agreement with a community partner under which the eli-
7	gible entity may provide funds to a community partner
8	for the provision of covered services to eligible individuals
9	and their families.
10	(n) Definitions.—In this section:
11	(1) Appropriate committees of con-
12	GRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Con-
13	gress' means—
14	(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
15	and the Subcommittee on Military Construc-
16	tion, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of
17	the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;
18	and
19	(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
20	and the Subcommittee on Military Construc-
21	tion, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of
22	the Committee on Appropriations of the House
23	of Representatives.
24	(2) Eligible entity.—The term "eligible enti-
25	ty" means—

1	(A) an incorporated private institution or
2	foundation—
3	(i) no part of the net earnings of
4	which incurs to the benefit of any member,
5	founder, contributor, or individual;
6	(ii) that has a governing board that
7	would be responsible for the operation of
8	the suicide prevention services provided
9	under this section; and
10	(iii) that is approved by the Secretary
11	as to financial responsibility;
12	(B) a corporation wholly owned and con-
13	trolled by an organization meeting the require-
14	ments of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subpara-
15	graph (A);
16	(C) a tribally designated housing entity (as
17	defined in section 4 of the Native American
18	Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act
19	of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103));
20	(D) a community-based organization that
21	can effectively network with local civic organiza-
22	tions, regional health systems, and other set-
23	tings where eligible individuals and their fami-
24	lies are likely to have contact; or
25	(E) State or local governments.

1	(3) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term "eligible
2	individual" includes a person at risk of suicide who
3	is—
4	(A) a veteran as defined in section 101 of
5	title 38, United States Code;
6	(B) an individual as described in section
7	1720(I)(b) of title 38, United States Code;
8	(C) an individual as described in section
9	1712A(a)(1)(C)(i)-(iv) of title 38, United States
10	Code.
11	(4) Risk of Suicide.—
12	(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "risk of sui-
13	cide" means exposure to or the existence of any
14	of the following (to a degree determined by the
15	Secretary pursuant to regulations):
16	(i) Health risk factors, including the
17	following:
18	(I) Mental health challenges.
19	(II) Substance abuse.
20	(III) Serious or chronic health
21	conditions or pain.
22	(IV) Traumatic brain injury.
23	(ii) Environmental risk factors, in-
24	cluding the following:

1	(I) Access to lethal means (such
2	as drugs, firearms, etc.).
3	(II) Prolonged stress.
4	(III) Stressful life events.
5	(IV) Unemployment.
6	(V) Homelessness.
7	(VI) Recent loss.
8	(VII) Legal or financial chal-
9	lenges.
10	(iii) Historical risk factors, including
11	the following:
12	(I) Previous suicide attempts.
13	(II) Family history of suicide.
14	(III) History of abuse, neglect, or
15	trauma.
16	(B) Degree of Risk.—The Secretary
17	may, by regulation, establish a process for de-
18	termining degrees of risk of suicide for use by
19	grant recipients to focus the delivery of services
20	using grant funds.
21	(5) SUICIDE PREVENTION SERVICES.—The
22	term "suicide prevention services" means services to
23	address the needs of eligible individuals and their
24	families and includes the following:

1	(A) Outreach to identify those at risk of
2	suicide.
3	(B) A baseline mental health assessment
4	for risk screening and referral to care.
5	(C) Education on suicide risk and preven-
6	tion to families and communities.
7	(D) Provision of clinical services to treat
8	immediate need and, if the eligible individual
9	refuses or is ineligible for referral under sub-
10	section (l), ongoing services as required. Any
11	ongoing clinical services provided by the entity
12	receiving grants shall be at the expense of the
13	entity.
14	(E) Case management services.
15	(F) Peer support services.
16	(G) Assistance in obtaining any benefits
17	from the Department that the eligible individ-
18	uals and their families may be eligible to re-
19	ceive, including—
20	(i) vocational and rehabilitation coun-
21	seling;
22	(ii) supportive services for homeless
23	veterans;
24	(iii) employment and training services:
25	(iv) educational assistance; and

1	(v) health care services.
2	(H) Assistance in obtaining and coordi-
3	nating the provision of other benefits provided
4	by the Federal Government, a State or local
5	government, or an eligible entity.
6	(I) Assistance with emergent needs relat-
7	ing to—
8	(i) health care services;
9	(ii) daily living services;
10	(iii) personal financial planning;
11	(iv) transportation services;
12	(v) temporary income support serv-
13	ices;
14	(vi) fiduciary and representative payee
15	services;
16	(vii) legal services to assist the eligible
17	individual with issues that may contribute
18	to the risk of suicide; and
19	(viii) child care (not to exceed \$5,000
20	per eligible individual's family per fiscal
21	year).
22	(J) Assistance under this paragraph may
23	not include direct cash assistance to eligible in-
24	dividuals or their families.

1	(K) Such other services necessary for im-
2	proving the resiliency of eligible individuals and
3	their families as the Secretary considers appro-
4	priate, which may include—
5	(i) adaptive sports or in-place rec-
6	reational therapy;
7	(ii) substance use reduction program-
8	ming;
9	(iii) individual, group, or family coun-
10	seling;
11	(iv) relationship coaching; and
12	(v) financial counseling.
13	(L) Nontraditional and innovative ap-
14	proaches and treatment practices, as deter-
15	mined appropriate by the Secretary, in con-
16	sultation with appropriate entities.
17	(6) Vet center.—The term "Vet Center" has
18	the meaning given that term in section $1712A(h)(1)$
19	of title 38, United States Code.
20	(7) Family.—The term "family" means, with
21	respect to an eligible individual at risk of suicide,
22	any of the following:
23	(A) A parent.
24	(B) A spouse.
25	(C) A child.

1	(D) A sibling.
2	(E) A step-family member.
3	(F) An extended family member.
4	(G) Any other individual who lives with the
5	eligible individual.
6	(8) Veterans service organization.—The
7	term "veterans service organization" means any or-
8	ganization recognized by the Secretary of Veterans
9	Affairs for the representation of veterans under sec-
10	tion 5902 of title 38, United States Code.