

**AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT  
FOR H.R. 4435  
OFFERED BY MRS. McMORRIS RODGERS OF  
WASHINGTON**

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

1 **SEC. 548. ROLE OF MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT PRO-**  
2 **GRAMS IN ADDRESSING UNEMPLOYMENT**  
3 **AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT OF SPOUSES OF**  
4 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND**  
5 **CLOSING THE WAGE GAP BETWEEN MILITARY**  
6 **SPOUSES AND THEIR CIVILIAN COUNTER-**  
7 **PARTS.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
9 ings:

10 (1) Members of the Armed Forces and their  
11 families make enormous sacrifices in defense of the  
12 United States.

13 (2) Military spouses face a unique lifestyle  
14 marked by frequent moves, increased family respon-  
15 sibility during deployments, and limited career op-  
16 portunities in certain geographic locations.

1           (3) These circumstances present significant  
2 challenges to military spouses who desire to build a  
3 portable career commensurate with their skills, in-  
4 cluding education and experience.

5           (4) According to a recent Department of De-  
6 fense survey, the unemployment rate for civilians  
7 married to a military member is 25 percent, but the  
8 unemployment rate is 33 percent for spouses of jun-  
9 ior enlisted members. The same survey revealed that  
10 85 percent of military spouses want or need to work.

11           (5) A recent Military Officers Association of  
12 American (MOAA)/Institute for Veterans and Mili-  
13 tary Families' (IVMF) Military Spouse Employment  
14 Report revealed that an overwhelming ninety percent  
15 of female military spouses are underemployed.

16           (6) The Department of Defense has dem-  
17 onstrated its commitment to helping military  
18 spouses obtain employment by creating the Military  
19 Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP), the Mili-  
20 tary Spouse Career Center, and the Military Spouse  
21 Career Advancement Accounts (MyCAA). More than  
22 61,000 military spouses have been hired as part of  
23 the Military Spouse Employment Partnership  
24 (MSEP) since the MSEP launch in June 2011.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
2 gress that—

3 (1) the Secretary of Defense should continue to  
4 work to reduce the unemployment and underemploy-  
5 ment of spouses of members of the Armed Forces  
6 (in this section referred to as “military spouses”)  
7 and support closing the wage gap between military  
8 spouses and their civilian counterparts;

9 (2) in this process, the Secretary should  
10 prioritize efforts that assist military spouses in pur-  
11 suing portable careers that match their skill set, in-  
12 cluding education and experience; and

13 (3) in evaluating the effectiveness of military  
14 spouse employment programs, the Secretary should  
15 collect information that provides a comprehensive as-  
16 sessment of the program, including whether program  
17 goals are being achieved.

18 (c) DATA COLLECTION RELATED TO EFFORTS TO  
19 ADDRESS UNDEREMPLOYMENT OF MILITARY SPOUSES.—

20 (1) DATA COLLECTION REQUIRED.—In addition  
21 to monitoring the number of military spouses who  
22 obtain employment through military spouse employ-  
23 ment programs, the Secretary of Defense shall col-  
24 lect data to evaluate the effectiveness of military  
25 spouse employment programs in addressing the

1 underemployment of military spouses and in closing  
2 the wage gap between military spouses and their ci-  
3 vilian counterparts. Information collected shall in-  
4 clude whether positions obtained by military spouses  
5 through military spouse employment programs  
6 match their education and experience.

7 (2) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one  
8 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
9 Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congres-  
10 sional defense committees a report evaluating the  
11 progress of military spouse employment programs in  
12 reducing military spouse unemployment, reducing  
13 the wage gap between military spouses and their ci-  
14 vilian counterparts, and addressing the under-  
15 employment of military spouses.

16 (d) MILITARY SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS DE-  
17 FINED.—In this section, the term “military spouse em-  
18 ployment programs” means the Military Spouse Employ-  
19 ment Partnership (MSEP).

