

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 8800
OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS OF LOUISIANA

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 5 ____ . SEX-NEUTRAL FITNESS STANDARDS.**

2 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than one year after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
4 Defense shall establish physical fitness and occupational
5 performance standards for members of the covered Armed
6 Forces that are normalized for age and sex-neutral.

7 (b) PROHIBITION ON ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON
8 SEX.—The standards required under subsection (a) may
9 not include any distinction or alternative standard based
10 on the sex of the member.

11 (c) STANDARDS FOR COMBAT POSITIONS.—The
12 standards required under subsection (a) shall include
13 higher standards for members of the covered Armed
14 Forces serving in ground combat roles.

15 (d) CERTIFICATION OF IMPLEMENTATION.—Not
16 later than one year after the date of enactment of this
17 Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to Congress—

1 (1) a certification that the Secretaries of the
2 military departments have implemented the stand-
3 ards required under subsection (a); or

4 (2) if the Secretary is unable to submit such a
5 certification, an explanation of which covered Armed
6 Forces have not implemented the standards as re-
7 quired by this section, the reasons such covered
8 Armed Forces have not implemented such standards,
9 and an estimated date by which such standards will
10 be implemented by such covered Armed Forces.

11 (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually there-
13 after for five years, the Secretary of Defense shall submit
14 to the congressional defense committees a report on the
15 implementation of this section, including—

16 (1) the status of each covered Armed Force in
17 complying with the requirements of this section;

18 (2) the impact of the implementation of this
19 section on readiness;

20 (3) the impact of the implementation of this
21 section on retention and attrition rates for members
22 of the covered Armed Forces; and

23 (4) an assessment of operational readiness.

24 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) COVERED ARMED FORCE.—The term “cov-
2 ered Armed Force” means the Army, Navy, Air
3 Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force.

4 (2) GROUND COMBAT ROLE.—The term
5 “ground combat role” means a military occupational
6 specialty, rating, or designation the primary mission
7 of which includes close engagement of enemy forces
8 in ground combat operations, as determined by the
9 Secretary of the military department concerned.

