

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 3856
OFFERED BY Mr. Takano

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE**
2 **STUDY ON DISPARITIES ASSOCIATED WITH**
3 **RACE AND ETHNICITY WITH RESPECT TO**
4 **CERTAIN BENEFITS ADMINISTERED BY THE**
5 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General of
7 the United States shall conduct a study—

8 (1) to assess whether there are disparities asso-
9 ciated with race and ethnicity with respect to—

10 (A) compensation benefits administered by
11 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

12 (B) disability ratings determined by the
13 Secretary, with specific consideration of dis-
14 ability evaluations based on pain; and

15 (C) the rejection of fully developed claims
16 for benefits under laws administered by the
17 Secretary; and

1 (2) to develop recommendations to facilitate
2 better data collection on the disparities described in
3 paragraph (1).

4 (b) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than one year
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-
6 ptroller General shall brief Congress on the initial results
7 of the study conducted under subsection (a).

8 (c) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 240 days after
9 the date on which the briefing required by subsection (b)
10 is conducted, the Comptroller General shall submit to Con-
11 gress a final report setting forth the results of the study
12 conducted under subsection (a), including the rec-
13 ommendations developed under paragraph (2) of such sub-
14 section.

