SEC. _____. AUTHORIZATION TO REIMBURSE EMPLOYEES FOR PARKING AT RECRUITING COMMANDS.

Paragraph (1) of section 481i(b) of title 37, United States Code, is amended by striking "as a recruiter" and inserting "at a recruiting command".

[Please note: The "Changes to Existing Law" section below sets out in red-line format how the legislative text above would amend existing law.]

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would authorize the military departments to reimburse parking expenses to military and civilian staff members assigned to recruiting facilities in the same manner that the departments reimburse military and civilian staff members assigned to duty at military entrance processing stations (MEPS) and Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (SROTC) units.

Current law authorizes reimbursement of parking expenses to all personnel assigned to MEPS and SROTC regardless of the employee's specific duties, but limits reimbursement to members of the Services' recruiting commands only to those assigned to duty as a recruiter. The lack of parking reimbursement for non-recruiter military and civilian staff members assigned to recruiting facilities makes it difficult to attract and retain high performing personnel, especially to fill vacant positions that are located in high cost areas. These individuals work as supporting team members to the recruiting effort and contribute immensely to mission success. The current reimbursement system creates an inequity within the recruiting team. While recruiters receive reimbursement for parking expenses, non-recruiter team members who work alongside them must pay out of pocket. The current reimbursement system also creates an inequity between staff members who work at recruiting stations and staff members who work at MEPS and SROTC units. These disparities have a negative effect on morale.

In the current resource constrained environment opportunities must be sought to gain efficiencies in the sustainment of the all-volunteer force. The legislative proposal enables the sustainment of the all-volunteer force and the achievement of congressionally-mandated end strength in order to provide the country's elected leadership a full military capability. The proposal will ensure that all personnel involved in the military recruitment and entrance process, regardless of their assignment to a recruiting facility, MEPS, or SROTC, receive equitable parking fee reimbursement.

Budget Implications: The table below reflects reimbursement of privately owned vehicle parking for recruiters and support personnel. The resources reflected in the table below are funded within the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 President's Budget.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS)									
	FY 2019	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**Dash 1 Line Item**	**Program Element**

Army	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	Operation and Maintenance, Army	03	331	0801711 A
Air Force	0.052	0.053	0.054	0.055	0.055	Operation and Maintenance, Air Force	03	033A	0801711 F
Navy	The Navy does not intend to use this authority.								
Marines	The Marines do not intend to use this authority.								
Total	0.222	0.223	0.224	0.225	0.225				

PERSONNEL AFFECTED					
	FY 2019	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**
Army	180	180	180	180	180
Air Force	240	240	240	240	240
Total	420	420	420	420	420

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would make the following changes to section 481i of title 37, United States Code:

§481i. Travel and transportation allowances: parking expenses

(a) REIMBURSEMENT AUTHORITY.—Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of a military department may reimburse eligible Department of Defense personnel for expenses incurred after October 1, 2001, for parking a privately owned vehicle at a place of duty described in subsection (b).

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—A member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps or an employee of the Department of Defense may be reimbursed under subsection (a) for parking expenses while-

(1) assigned to duty ~~as a recruiter~~ at a recruiting command for any of the armed forces;

(2) assigned to duty at a military entrance processing facility of the armed forces; or

(3) detailed for instructional and administrative duties at any institution where a unit of the Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps is maintained.

(c) TERMINATION.—No reimbursement may be provided under this section for expenses incurred after the travel authorities transition expiration date.