SEC. ___. CONGRESSIONAL NOMINATIONS FOR SENIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS SCHOLARSHIPS.

Section 7442 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(k) Any qualified candidate not nominated under paragraphs (3) through (10) of subsection (a) may be referred by a Member of Congress or other selecting official specified in such paragraphs to the Secretary of the Army for consideration by the Secretary in order of merit for appointment as a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet under section 2107 of this title.".

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

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would amend 10 U.S.C. 7442 to allow any qualified candidate for nomination to a vacancy at the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) who is not nominated by a Member of Congress to be referred by that Member of Congress to the Secretary of the Army for consideration for appointment as a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) cadet.

Each year, there are approximately 100,000 college-bound high school seniors who are eligible for military service and demonstrate a propensity to serve as an officer. Approximately two-thirds of these students will graduate and immediately enroll as full-time students pursuing 4-year baccalaureate degrees.

There is limited knowledge of the ROTC opportunity among these eligible and propensed college-bound youth:

- While 65 percent of college-bound propensed youth have "heard" of ROTC, only 33 percent have actually received any information about the ROTC program.
- 25 percent are NOT aware that ROTC programs offer college scholarships.
- Only 46 percent associate ROTC with college attendance. Over half of those who do associate ROTC with college believe that college ROTC programs are a continuation of high school JROTC programs with another third unsure of the relationship between JROTC and ROTC.

At the same time, under 10 U.S.C 7442, Members of Congress currently nominate high school students from public and private high schools for appointment to the United States Military Academy (USMA). Successful candidates, 17 to 23 years of age, receive a funded college education, are commissioned as second lieutenants, and remain in the military for at least 5 years after graduation. However, the number of applicants for congressional nominations exceeds the number of cadets that USMA can admit. Many of these high quality students become disillusioned because they are unaware of other options for military service as a commissioned officer.

With this proposal, the Army aims to: 1) provide an alternative avenue to a funded education and commission for those high quality candidates not nominated for admission to USMA; 2) limit the perception that candidates are excluded from Army service because of the statutory limitations on nominations for admission to USMA; 3) serve as another method of educating the public about the paths to becoming an Army officer; and 3) expand the actions that Members of Congress may take to aid high quality constituents in gaining post-secondary education and serving their country as officers.

If enacted, this proposal would not require additional vetting by or otherwise burden congressional offices. Through this proposal, DOD merely aims to encourage congressional offices to forward along the names and relevant details of qualified candidates who were not nominated for admission to USMA.

The potential pool of candidates for consideration for ROTC scholarships under this proposal does not include those candidates nominated by Members of Congress for appointment to USMA who are then not selected for appointment. The Army already has access to those individuals and reaches out to them with an offer to apply for ROTC scholarship. This proposal is specifically geared to those candidates who have sought a nomination to USMA through a Member of Congress, but for whom the Member is unable to nominate to USMA due to limits on the number of nominations a Member may make.

Budget Implications: This proposal would not directly affect the manpower requirements at U.S. Army Cadet Command (USACC) headquarters. The increased number of nominations would create an additional processing requirements workload at the USACC headquarters equaling approximately one-half a work year (full-time equivalent) but would not create an additional manpower requirement (the additional workload to process scholarship applications should be offset by a reduction in recruiting efforts). The resources required are reflected in the table below and are included within the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 President's Budget.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($Millions)									
	FY 2021	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**	**Appropriation From**	**Budget Activity**	**BLI/ SAG**	**Program Element**
Army	$0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.07	Operation and Maintenance, Army	03	314	0804723A
Total	$0.06	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.07				

PERSONNEL AFFECTED (Full Time Equivalents)					
	FY 2021	**FY 2022**	**FY 2023**	**FY 2024**	**FY 2025**
Army	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5
Total	.5	.5	.5	.5	.5

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would make the following change to section 7442 of title 10, United States Code:

§ 7442. Cadets: appointment; numbers, territorial distribution

(a) The authorized strength of the Corps of Cadets of the Academy (determined for any year as of the day before the last day of the academic year) is 4,400 or such lower number as may be prescribed by the Secretary of the Army under subsection (j). Subject to that limitation, cadets are selected as follows:

(1) 65 cadets selected in order of merit as established by competitive examinations from the children of members of the armed forces who were killed in action or died of, or have a service-connected disability rated at not less than 100 per centum resulting from, wounds or injuries received or diseases contracted in, or preexisting injury or disease aggravated by, active service, children of members who are in a "missing status" as defined in section 551(2) of title 37, and children of civilian employees who are in "missing status" as defined in section 5561(5) of title 5. The determination of the Department of Veterans Affairs as to service connection of the cause of death or disability, and the percentage at which the disability is rated, is binding upon the Secretary of the Army.

(2) Five cadets nominated at large by the Vice President or, if there is no Vice President, by the President pro tempore of the Senate.

(3) Ten cadets from each State, five of whom are nominated by each Senator from that State.

(4) Five cadets from each congressional district, nominated by the Representative from the district.

(5) Five cadets from the District of Columbia, nominated by the Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia.

(6) Four cadets from the Virgin Islands, nominated by the Delegate in Congress from the Virgin Islands.

(7) Six cadets from Puerto Rico, five of whom are nominated by the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico and one who is a native of Puerto Rico nominated by the Governor of Puerto Rico.

(8) Four cadets from Guam, nominated by the Delegate in Congress from Guam.

(9) Three cadets from American Samoa, nominated by the Delegate in Congress from American Samoa.

(10) Three cadets from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, nominated by the Delegate in Congress from the commonwealth.

Each Senator, Representative, and Delegate in Congress, including the Resident Commissioner from Puerto Rico, is entitled to nominate 10 persons for each vacancy that is available to him under this section. Nominees may be submitted without ranking or with a principal candidate and 9 ranked or unranked alternates. Qualified nominees not selected for appointment under this subsection shall be considered qualified alternates for the purposes of selection under other provisions of this chapter. When a nominee of a Senator, Representative, or Delegate is selected for appointment as a cadet, the Senator, Representative, or Delegate shall be notified at least 48 hours before the official notification or announcement of the appointment is made.

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(k) Any qualified candidate not nominated under paragraphs (3) through (10) of subsection (a) may be referred by a Member of Congress or other selecting official specified in such paragraphs to the Secretary of the Army for consideration by the Secretary in order of merit for appointment as a Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet under section 2107 of this title.