

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2836

To amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 to improve and expand suicide prevention and community healing and response training under the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2009

Mr. HODES (for himself and Ms. SHEA-PORTER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 to improve and expand suicide prevention and community healing and response training under the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as “The National Guard and
5 Reservist Suicide Prevention and Community Response
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF SUICIDE PREVENTION AND COMMU-**
2 **NITY HEALING AND RESPONSE TRAINING**
3 **UNDER THE YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRA-**
4 **TION PROGRAM.**

5 Section 582 of the National Defense Authorization
6 Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181; 122 Stat.
7 122) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (h)—

9 (A) by striking paragraph (3); and

10 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (4)
11 through (15) as paragraphs (3) through (14),
12 respectively; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
14 section:

15 “(i) SUICIDE PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY HEAL-
16 ING AND RESPONSE PROGRAM.—

17 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—As part of the Yellow
18 Ribbon Reintegration Program, the Office for Re-
19 integration Programs shall establish a program to
20 provide National Guard and Reserve members, their
21 families, and their communities with training in sui-
22 cide prevention and community healing and response
23 to suicide.

24 “(2) DESIGN.—In establishing the program
25 under paragraph (1), the Office for Reintegration
26 Programs shall—

1 “(A) consult with—

2 “(i) officials associated with the ‘Con-
3 nect’ program of the National Alliance on
4 Mental Illness New Hampshire; and

5 “(ii) the adjutant general of each
6 state, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,
7 the District of Columbia, Guam, and the
8 Virgin Islands; and

9 “(B) model the program after the ‘Con-
10 nect’ program of the National Alliance on Men-
11 tal Illness New Hampshire.

12 “(3) OPERATION.—

13 “(A) SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING.—
14 The Office for Reintegration Programs shall
15 provide National Guard and Reserve members
16 with training in suicide prevention. Such train-
17 ing shall include—

18 “(i) describing the warning signs for
19 suicide and teaching effective strategies for
20 prevention and intervention;

21 “(ii) examining the influence of mili-
22 tary culture on risk and protective factors
23 for suicide; and

1 “(iii) engaging in interactive case sce-
2 narios and role plays to practice effective
3 intervention strategies.

4 “(B) COMMUNITY HEALING AND RE-
5 SPONSE TRAINING.—The Office for Reintegra-
6 tion Programs shall provide the families and
7 communities of National Guard and Reserve
8 members with training in responses to suicide
9 that promote individual and community healing.
10 Such training shall include—

11 “(i) enhancing collaboration among
12 community members and local service pro-
13 viders to create an integrated, coordinated
14 community response to suicide;

15 “(ii) communicating best practices for
16 preventing suicide, including safe mes-
17 saging, appropriate memorial services, and
18 media guidelines;

19 “(iii) addressing the impact of suicide
20 on the military and the larger community,
21 and the increased risk that can result; and

22 “(iv) managing resources to assist key
23 community and military service providers
24 in helping the families, friends, and fellow

1 soldiers of a suicide victim through the
2 processes of grieving and healing.

3 “(C) COLLABORATION WITH CENTERS OF
4 EXCELLENCE.—The Office for Reintegration
5 Programs, in consultation with the Defense
6 Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health
7 and Traumatic Brain Injury, shall collect and
8 analyze ‘lessons learned’ and suggestions from
9 State National Guard and Reserve organiza-
10 tions with existing or developing suicide preven-
11 tion and community response programs.

12 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
13 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
14 this subsection \$15,000,000 for each fiscal year be-
15 ginning with fiscal year 2010.”.

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