

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5553

To direct the Secretary of Defense to take certain steps to improve the Transition Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2018

Mr. BACON (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to take certain steps to improve the Transition Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

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 “Loya-Sears Warrior
5 Transition Assistance Reform Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Congress affirms the importance of TAP in
9 preparing members of the Armed Forces of the

1 United States to rejoin civil society as productive
2 citizens following their service.

3 (2) Despite considerable effort and investment
4 in military transition assistance programs over many
5 years, strong evidence exists that many veterans re-
6 main unprepared for transition and encounter sig-
7 nificant challenges in living healthy and productive
8 lives.

9 (3) Congress observes with concern the unac-
10 ceptably high rates of suicide, unemployment, and
11 homelessness that persist among America's veteran
12 population.

13 (4) While difficult to precisely establish the
14 causal basis of this crisis, Congress is concerned
15 that management controls should be improved to en-
16 sure the Department of Defense complies with cur-
17 rent statutes regarding TAP attendance and partici-
18 pation, effective allocation of transition assistance
19 resources, and effective measurement of TAP out-
20 comes with timely feedback to the Department of
21 Defense and its interagency partners in the Depart-
22 ments of Veterans Affairs and Labor.

23 **SEC. 3. REQUIRED ACTIONS.**

24 Not later than 120 days after the date of the enact-
25 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide

1 an action plan to the congressional defense committees to
2 accomplish the following with regards to all members of
3 the regular and reserve components of the Armed Forces:

4 (1) Mandate initiation of TAP one year before
5 separation from the Armed Forces.

6 (2) Standardize TAP curriculum across all mili-
7 tary departments.

8 (3) Ensure unit and installation compliance
9 with applicable statutes governing TAP program
10 management and individual attendance.

11 (4) Implementation, in consultation with the
12 Secretaries of Veterans Affairs and Labor, of stand-
13 ardized performance metrics to measure TAP par-
14 ticipation and outcome-based objective benchmarks
15 in order to—

16 (A) provide feedback to stakeholders of
17 each of the Departments of Defense, Veterans
18 Affairs, and Labor;

19 (B) improve program curriculum;

20 (C) share best practices; and

21 (D) facilitate effective oversight of TAP.

22 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

23 (a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
25 of Defense, in consultation with the Secretaries of Vet-

1 erans Affairs and Labor, shall provide a report to the con-
2 gressional defense committees containing recommenda-
3 tions to improve the efficacy of TAP.

4 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report under this section shall
5 include recommendations regarding the following:

6 (1) Methods to improve and expand the dura-
7 tion and practical utility of the TAP curriculum in
8 order to effectively prepare members of the Armed
9 Forces to rejoin the civilian labor force.

10 (2) Ways to more effectively utilize national and
11 local veterans service organizations to support vet-
12 erans throughout transition.

13 (3) Proposed changes to law or policy to im-
14 prove the ability of TAP to prepare members of the
15 Armed Forces to rejoin civil society in productive
16 manners.

17 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) The term “TAP” means the Transition As-
20 sistance Program under sections 1142 and 1144 of
21 title 10, United States Code.

22 (2) The terms “military departments” and
23 “congressional defense committees” have the mean-

1 ing given those terms in section 101 of title 10,
2 United States Code.

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