

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5707

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program to improve the treatment of members of the Armed Forces for post-traumatic stress disorder relating to military sexual trauma.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2018

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program to improve the treatment of members of the Armed Forces for post-traumatic stress disorder relating to military sexual trauma.

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 “Sexual Trauma Re-
5 sponse and Treatment Act” or the “START Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON TREATMENT OF MEMBERS OF**
2 **THE ARMED FORCES FOR POST-TRAUMATIC**
3 **STRESS DISORDER RELATED TO MILITARY**
4 **SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may
6 carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and ad-
7 visability of using intensive outpatient programs to treat
8 members of the Armed Forces suffering from post-trau-
9 matic stress disorder resulting from military sexual trau-
10 ma, including treatment for substance abuse, depression,
11 and other issues related to such conditions.

12 (b) DISCHARGE THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS.—The
13 pilot program authorized by subsection (a) shall be carried
14 out through partnerships with public, private, and non-
15 profit health care organizations and institutions that—

16 (1) provide health care to members of the
17 Armed Forces;

18 (2) provide evidence-based treatment for psy-
19 chological and neurological conditions that are com-
20 mon among members of the Armed Forces, includ-
21 ing post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain
22 injury, substance abuse, and depression;

23 (3) provide health care, support, and other ben-
24 efits to family members of members of the Armed
25 Forces; and

1 (4) provide health care under the TRICARE
2 program (as that term is defined in section 1072 of
3 title 10, United States Code).

4 (c) PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.—Each organization or in-
5 stitution that participates in a partnership under the pilot
6 program authorized by subsection (a) shall—

7 (1) carry out intensive outpatient programs of
8 short duration to treat members of the Armed
9 Forces suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder
10 resulting from military sexual trauma, including
11 treatment for substance abuse, depression, and other
12 issues related to such conditions;

13 (2) use evidence-based and evidence-informed
14 treatment strategies in carrying out such programs;

15 (3) share clinical and outreach best practices
16 with other organizations and institutions partici-
17 pating in the pilot program; and

18 (4) annually assess outcomes for members of
19 the Armed Forces individually and among the orga-
20 nizations and institutions participating in the pilot
21 program with respect to the treatment of conditions
22 described in paragraph (1).

23 (d) EVALUATION METRICS.—Before commencement
24 of the pilot program, the Secretary shall establish metrics

1 to be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot pro-
2 gram and the activities under the pilot program.

3 (e) REPORTS.—

4 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary shall submit to the Committees on Armed
7 Services of the Senate and the House of Representa-
8 tives a report on the pilot program authorized by
9 subsection (a). The report shall include a description
10 of the pilot program and such other matters on the
11 pilot program as the Secretary considers appro-
12 priate.

13 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
14 after the cessation of the pilot program under sub-
15 section (f), the Secretary shall submit to the com-
16 mittees of Congress referred to in paragraph (1) a
17 report on the pilot program. The report shall include
18 the following:

19 (A) A description of the pilot program, in-
20 cluding the partnership under the pilot program
21 as described in subsection (b).

22 (B) An assessment of the effectiveness of
23 the pilot program and the activities under the
24 pilot program.

1 (C) Such recommendations for legislative
2 or administrative action as the Secretary con-
3 siders appropriate in light of the pilot program,
4 including recommendations for extension or
5 making permanent the authority for the pilot
6 program.

7 (f) TERMINATION.—The Secretary may not carry out
8 the pilot program authorized by subsection (a) after the
9 date that is three years after the date of the enactment
10 of this Act.

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