

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4992

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program on suicide prevention in the military health care system.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 8, 2019

Ms. GABBARD 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 on suicide prevention in the military health care system.

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 “Recovery Engagement
5 And Coordination for Health–Military Innovations for
6 Life Act” or the “REACH MIL Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON SUICIDE PREVENTION IN MILI-**
8 **TARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.**

9 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense, in
10 collaboration with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall

1 carry out a pilot program on suicide prevention in the mili-
2 tary health care system. Such program shall be similar
3 to the REACH VET predictive analysis pilot program car-
4 ried out by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

5 (b) PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS PROCESS.—

6 (1) PRE-EMPTIVE CARE.—In carrying out the
7 pilot program, the Secretary of Defense shall ana-
8 lyze existing data from health records of members of
9 the Armed Force serving on active duty to identify
10 the members who are at a statistically elevated risk
11 for suicide, hospitalization, illness, or other adverse
12 outcomes, in order to provide pre-emptive care and
13 support for such members before such members have
14 or express suicidal thoughts to clinicians.

15 (2) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall ensure that
16 the predictive analytics process developed pursuant
17 to paragraph (1)—

18 (A) identifies members of the Armed
19 Forces serving on active duty who are at high
20 statistical risk for suicide;

21 (B) flags the records of the members; and

22 (C) requires health care providers of the
23 military health care system to contact such
24 members to initiate a care plan.

1 (c) INFORMATION SHARING.—The Secretary of De-
2 fense shall provide information under the pilot program
3 under subsection (a) with the Secretary of Veterans Af-
4 fairs to ensure that a member of the Armed Forces serving
5 on active duty who transitions from the military health
6 care system to the health care system of the Department
7 of Veterans Affairs is able to schedule appropriate follow-
8 up mental health care appointments with the Department
9 of Veterans Affairs.

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