

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5027

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish free and comprehensive mental health care to former members of the Armed Services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 8, 2019

Mr. SUOZZI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish free and comprehensive mental health care to former members of the Armed Services, 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. FREE AND COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH**
4 **CARE FOR VETERANS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1720I of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

1 **“§ 1720I. Comprehensive mental health care for**
2 **former members of the Armed Forces**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall furnish com-
4 prehensive mental health care at no cost to any former
5 member of the Armed Forces.

6 “(b) FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—
7 In this section, the term ‘former member of the Armed
8 Forces’ includes the following:

9 “(1) A veteran described in section 101(2) of
10 this title.

11 “(2) An individual not described in paragraph
12 (1) who—

13 “(A) served as a member of the Armed
14 Forces, including the reserve components there-
15 of; and

16 “(B) was discharged or released from such
17 service without regard to—

18 “(i) the period of active duty service
19 of the individual; or

20 “(ii) the character of discharge or re-
21 lease of the individual.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 at the beginning of chapter 17 of title 38, United States
24 Code, is amended by striking the item relating to section
25 1720I and inserting the following:

“1720I. Comprehensive mental health care for former members of the Armed Forces.”.

1 (c) EXPANSION OF READJUSTMENT COUNSELING
2 AND RELATED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—Section
3 1712A(a)(1)(C) of title 38, United States Code, is amend-
4 ed by adding at the end the following new clause:

5 “(vi) Any former member of the Armed Forces
6 described in section 1720I(b) of this title.”.

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