

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1467

To require a pilot program on information sharing between the Department of Defense and designated relatives and friends of members of the Armed Forces regarding the experiences and challenges of military service, particularly during and after overseas deployments, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 14, 2019

Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require a pilot program on information sharing between the Department of Defense and designated relatives and friends of members of the Armed Forces regarding the experiences and challenges of military service, particularly during and after overseas deployments, 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 “Sergeant Daniel
5 Somers Network of Support Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON INFORMATION SHARING BE-**
2 **TWEEN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND DES-**
3 **IGNATED RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF MEM-**
4 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES REGARDING**
5 **THE EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES OF**
6 **MILITARY SERVICE.**

7 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary of Defense shall seek to enter into an agree-
11 ment with the American Red Cross to carry out a
12 pilot program under which—

13 (A) the American Red Cross—

14 (i) encourages a member of the
15 Armed Forces, upon the enlistment or ap-
16 pointment of such member, to designate up
17 to 15 persons to whom information regard-
18 ing the military service of such member
19 shall be disseminated using contact infor-
20 mation obtained under paragraph (5); and

21 (ii) provides such persons, within 30
22 days after the date on which such persons
23 are designated under clause (i), the option
24 to elect to receive such information regard-
25 ing military service; and

1 (B) the Secretary disseminates, not less
2 frequently than quarterly, such information to
3 such persons who elect to receive such informa-
4 tion under subparagraph (A)(ii).

5 (2) TYPES OF INFORMATION.—The types of in-
6 formation to be disseminated by the Secretary to
7 persons who elect to receive information under the
8 pilot program shall include information regarding—

9 (A) aspects of daily life and routine experi-
10 enced by members of the Armed Forces;

11 (B) the challenges and stresses of military
12 service, particularly during and after deploy-
13 ment as part of a contingency operation;

14 (C) the services available to members of
15 the Armed Forces and the dependents of such
16 members to cope with the experiences and chal-
17 lenges of military service;

18 (D) benefits administered by the Secretary
19 for members of the Armed Forces and the de-
20 pendents of such members;

21 (E) a toll-free telephone number through
22 which such persons who elect to receive infor-
23 mation under the pilot program may request in-
24 formation regarding the program; and

1 (F) such other information as the Sec-
2 retary, in consultation with members of the
3 Armed Forces and such persons who elect to re-
4 ceive information under the pilot program, de-
5 termines to be appropriate.

6 (3) PRIVACY OF INFORMATION.—In carrying
7 out the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Sec-
8 retary may not disseminate information under para-
9 graph (2) in violation of laws and regulations per-
10 taining to the privacy of members of the Armed
11 Forces, including requirements pursuant to—

12 (A) section 552a of title 5, United States
13 Code; and

14 (B) the Health Insurance Portability and
15 Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–
16 191).

17 (4) NOTICE AND MODIFICATIONS.—In carrying
18 out the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Sec-
19 retary shall, with respect to a member of the Armed
20 Forces—

21 (A) ensure that such member is notified of
22 the ability to modify designations made by such
23 member under paragraph (1)(A); and

1 (B) upon the request of a member, author-
2 ize such member to modify such designations at
3 any time.

4 (5) CONTACT INFORMATION.—In making a des-
5 ignation under the pilot program, a member of the
6 Armed Forces shall provide necessary contact infor-
7 mation, specifically including an email address, to
8 facilitate the dissemination of information regarding
9 the military service of the member.

10 (6) OPT-OUT OF PROGRAM.—In carrying out
11 the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Sec-
12 retary shall, with respect to a person who has elect-
13 ed to receive information under such pilot program,
14 cease disseminating such information to that person
15 upon request of such person.

16 (b) SURVEY AND REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM.—

17 (1) SURVEY.—Not later than two years after
18 the date on which the pilot program commences, the
19 Secretary, in consultation with the American Red
20 Cross, shall administer a survey to persons who
21 elected to receive information under the pilot pro-
22 gram for the purpose of receiving feedback regarding
23 the quality of information disseminated under this
24 section, including whether such information appro-

1 priately reflects the military career progression of
2 members of the Armed Forces.

3 (2) REPORT.—Not later than three years after
4 the date on which the pilot program commences, the
5 Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense
6 committees a report on the pilot program which in-
7 cludes—

8 (A) the results of the survey administered
9 under paragraph (1);

10 (B) a determination as to whether the pilot
11 program should be made permanent; and

12 (C) recommendations as to modifications
13 necessary to improve the program if made per-
14 manent.

15 (3) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES
16 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “congres-
17 sional defense committees” has the meaning given
18 that term in section 101 of title 10, United States
19 Code.

20 (c) TERMINATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot
21 program shall terminate upon submission of the report re-
22 quired by subsection (b)(2).

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