

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2817

To amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish readjustment counseling and related mental health services to family members of members of the Armed Forces or veterans who died by suicide, and other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

Mr. TILLIS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish readjustment counseling and related mental health services to family members of members of the Armed Forces or veterans who died by suicide, and 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 “Expanding the Fami-
5 lies of Veterans Access to Mental Health Services Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR**
2 **FAMILY MEMBERS OF MEMBERS OF THE**
3 **ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS WHO DIED**
4 **BY SUICIDE.**

5 Section 1712A(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code,
6 is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

8 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “and”;

9 (B) in subclause (II), by striking the pe-
10 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

11 (C) by adding at the end the following new
12 subclause:

13 “(III) in the case of a veteran or member
14 who died by suicide, to the degree that coun-
15 seling furnished to such individual is found to
16 aid in coping with the effects of such suicide.”;

17 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i)(II)—

18 (A) in item (aa), by striking “or”;

19 (B) in item (bb), by striking the period at
20 the end and inserting “; or”; and

21 (C) by adding at the end the following new
22 item:

23 “(cc) coping with the effects of a suicide
24 described in subclause (III) of such clause.”;

25 and

26 (3) in subparagraph (C)(vii)—

1 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “or” at
2 the end;

3 (B) in subclause (II), by striking the pe-
4 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following new
6 subclause:

7 “(III) veteran or member of the Armed
8 Forces who died by suicide.”.

9 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

10 The amendments made by section 2 shall apply with
11 respect to family members of a member of the Armed
12 Forces or veteran who died by suicide before, on, or after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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