

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5986

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a pilot program on posttraumatic growth, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 29, 2018

Mr. TAYLOR (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mrs. COMSTOCK, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. BANKS of Indiana, and Mr. BILIRAKIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a pilot program on posttraumatic growth, 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 “Bill Mulder and Ryan  
5 Larkin Posttraumatic Growth Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) There is a shortage of adequate, timely, and  
2           effective mental health care available to veterans  
3           across the United States.

4           (2) The Department of Veterans Affairs con-  
5           tinues to highlight veterans mental health care and  
6           suicide prevention as a key priority.

7           (3) There is an opportunity to explore effective  
8           alternative treatments focused on the area of  
9           posttraumatic growth.

10 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM ON POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH.**

11           (a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
12           shall conduct a pilot program to study the effectiveness  
13           and benefits of nonprofit posttraumatic growth programs  
14           to determine—

15                   (1) the outcomes of such programs in contrast  
16                   to traditional models of mental health care;

17                   (2) the possible integration of such nonprofit  
18                   programs into the mental health care programs pro-  
19                   vided by the Secretary; and

20                   (3) the budgetary impacts of such integration.

21           (b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the  
22           pilot program under subsection (a) for a two-year period.

23           (c) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall select more  
24           than one location at which to carry out the pilot program

1 under subsection (a), of which at least one location shall  
2 include a rural area.

3 (d) PARTICIPANTS.—

4 (1) GROUPS.—For each location selected under  
5 subsection (c), the Secretary shall establish one or  
6 more groups consisting of not more than six vet-  
7 erans to participate in the pilot program under sub-  
8 section (a). The Secretary shall establish a total of  
9 24 groups.

10 (2) ELIGIBILITY.—A veteran is eligible to par-  
11 ticipate in a group under paragraph (1) if the Sec-  
12 retary determines that the veteran is—

13 (A) at risk of committing suicide; and

14 (B) not participating in traditional mental  
15 health treatment.

16 (3) FEMALE VETERANS.—Not fewer than four  
17 groups of veterans under paragraph (1) shall consist  
18 only of female veterans.

19 (e) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary  
20 shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) by  
21 entering into an agreement with one or more nonprofit  
22 organizations that—

23 (1) have staff with expertise in evidence-based  
24 care and experience working with veterans;

1           (2) have experience in the science of  
2 posttraumatic growth; and

3           (3) uses a standardized, evaluated, and com-  
4 prehensive curriculum.

5           (f) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date  
6 on which the pilot program under subsection (a) is com-  
7 pleted, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report  
8 on the pilot program, including a comparison of the care  
9 provided under the pilot program and the clinical care  
10 model of the Department.

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