

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1448

To improve the treatment provided to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 2005

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To improve the treatment provided to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

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 “Post-Traumatic Stress
5 Disorder Treatment Improvement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVED TREATMENT OF POST-TRAUMATIC**
7 **STRESS DISORDER.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
10 erans Affairs shall—

1 (1) establish a post-traumatic stress disorder
2 clinical team at every Medical Center of the Depart-
3 ment of Veterans Affairs;

4 (2) provide a certified family therapist for each
5 Vet Center of the Department of Veterans Affairs;
6 and

7 (3) appoint a post-traumatic stress disorder co-
8 ordinator within each Veteran Integrated Service
9 Network and within each Readjustment Counseling
10 Service Region.

11 (b) DUTIES OF PTSD COORDINATOR.—Each coordi-
12 nator appointed for a network or region under subsection
13 (a)(3) shall—

14 (1) evaluate post-traumatic stress disorder and
15 family therapy treatment programs within the net-
16 work or region;

17 (2) identify and disseminate best practices on
18 evaluation and treatment of post-traumatic stress
19 disorder, and on family therapy treatment, within
20 the network or region and to other networks and re-
21 gions; and

22 (3) recommend the resource allocation nec-
23 essary to meet post-traumatic stress disorder and
24 family therapy treatment needs within the network
25 or region.

1 (c) WAIVER.—Beginning on the date that is 5 years
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
3 of Veterans Affairs may waive any requirement of this Act
4 for the fiscal year beginning after that date if the Sec-
5 retary, not later than 90 days before the beginning of such
6 fiscal year, submits to Congress a report—

7 (1) notifying Congress of the proposed waiver;

8 (2) explaining why the requirement is not nec-
9 essary; and

10 (3) describing how post-traumatic stress dis-
11 order services and family therapy services will be
12 provided to all veterans who may need such services.

○