

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2778

To amend title 37, United States Code, to expand certain bonus and special pay authorities for members of the Armed Forces in order to enhance the recruitment and retention of psychologists, social workers, mental health nurses, and other mental health professionals in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 13, 2008

Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To amend title 37, United States Code, to expand certain bonus and special pay authorities for members of the Armed Forces in order to enhance the recruitment and retention of psychologists, social workers, mental health nurses, and other mental health professionals in the Armed Forces, 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 “Armed Forces Mental  
5       Health Professionals Recruitment and Retention En-  
6       hancement Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCESSION BONUS, SPECIAL PAY, AND RETENTION**  
 2 **BONUS AUTHORITIES FOR CLINICAL PSY-**  
 3 **CHOLOGISTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

4 (a) MULTIYEAR RETENTION BONUS FOR CLINICAL  
 5 PSYCHOLOGISTS.—Chapter 5 of title 37, United States  
 6 Code, is amended by inserting after section 301e the fol-  
 7 lowing new section:

8 **“§ 301f. Multiyear retention bonus: clinical psycholo-**  
 9 **gists of the armed forces**

10 “(a) BONUS AUTHORIZED.—(1) An officer described  
 11 in subsection (b) who executes a written agreement to re-  
 12 main on active duty for two, three, or four years after  
 13 completion of any other active-duty service commitment  
 14 may, upon acceptance of the written agreement by the  
 15 Secretary of the military department concerned, be paid  
 16 a retention bonus as provided in this section.

17 “(2) The amount of a retention bonus under para-  
 18 graph (1) may not exceed \$25,000 for each year covered  
 19 by a four-year agreement. The maximum yearly retention  
 20 bonus for two-year and three-year agreements shall be re-  
 21 duced to reflect the shorter service commitment.

22 “(b) COVERED OFFICERS.—An officer described in  
 23 this subsection is an officer who—

24 “(1) is an officer of the Medical Service Corps  
 25 of the Army or the Navy or the Biomedical Sciences  
 26 Corps of the Air Force;

1           “(2) is licensed and designated as a clinical psy-  
2           chologist by the American Board of Professional  
3           Psychology;

4           “(3) is in a pay grade below pay grade O-7;  
5           and

6           “(4) has at least eight years of creditable serv-  
7           ice (computed as described in subsection (c)) or has  
8           completed any active-duty service commitment in-  
9           curred for education and training as a clinical psy-  
10          chologist.

11          “(c) DETERMINATION OF CREDITABLE SERVICE.—  
12          For purposes of subsection (b), creditable service of an  
13          officer is computed by adding—

14               “(1) all periods which the officer spent in edu-  
15               cation and training, including as a clinical psy-  
16               chology intern, in preparation to be licensed and des-  
17               ignated as a psychologist by the American Board of  
18               Professional Psychology; and

19               “(2) all periods of active service in the Medical  
20               Service Corps of the Army or the Navy or the Bio-  
21               medical Sciences Corps of the Air Force as a clinical  
22               psychologist.

23          “(d) REPAYMENT.—An officer who does not complete  
24          the period of active duty specified in the agreement en-

1 tered into under subsection (a) shall be subject to the re-  
 2 payment provisions of section 303a(e) of this title.

3 “(e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement  
 4 under this section may be entered into after December 31,  
 5 2009.”.

6 (b) ACCESSION BONUS FOR CLINICAL PSYCHOLO-  
 7 GISTS IN CRITICALLY SHORT WARTIME SPECIALITIES AU-  
 8 THORIZED.—Chapter 5 of such title is further amended  
 9 by inserting after section 302l the following new section:  
 10 “§ 302m. **Special pay: accession bonus for clinical psy-**  
 11 **chologists in critically short wartime spe-**  
 12 **cialties**”

13 “(a) ACCESSION BONUS AUTHORIZED.—A person  
 14 who is a graduate of a program accredited by the Amer-  
 15 ican Psychological Association with a doctoral degree in  
 16 clinical psychology in a specialty designated by regulations  
 17 as a critically short wartime specialty and who executes  
 18 a written agreement described in subsection (d) to accept  
 19 a commission as an officer of the armed forces and remain  
 20 on active duty for a period of not less than four consec-  
 21 utive years may, upon the acceptance of the agreement by  
 22 the Secretary of the military department concerned, be  
 23 paid an accession bonus in the amount determined by the  
 24 Secretary of the military department concerned.

1       “(b) AMOUNT OF BONUS.—The amount of an acces-  
2       sion bonus under subsection (a) may not exceed \$400,000.

3       “(c) LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY FOR BONUS.—A  
4       person may not be paid a bonus under subsection (a) if—

5               “(1) the person, in exchange for an agreement  
6       to accept an appointment as an officer, received fi-  
7       nancial assistance from the Department of Defense  
8       to pursue a course of study in clinical psychology; or

9               “(2) the Secretary of the military department  
10      concerned determines that the person is not quali-  
11      fied to become and remain certified as a clinical psy-  
12      chology in a specialty designated by regulations as  
13      a critically short wartime specialty.

14      “(d) AGREEMENT.—The agreement referred to in  
15      subsection (a) shall provide that, consistent with the needs  
16      of the armed force concerned, the person executing the  
17      agreement will be assigned to duty for the period of obli-  
18      gated service covered by the agreement, as an officer of  
19      the Medical Service Corps of the Army or the Navy, or  
20      as an officer of the Biomedical Sciences Corps of the Air  
21      Force, in a specialty designated by regulations as a criti-  
22      cally short wartime specialty.

23      “(e) PAYMENT IN INSTALLMENTS.—The bonus pay-  
24      able under subsection (a) is payable in four equal annual

1 installments in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 per in-  
 2 stallment.

3 “(f) REPAYMENT.—A person who, after executing an  
 4 agreement under subsection (a) is not commissioned as  
 5 an officer of the armed forces, does not become certified  
 6 as a clinical psychologist, or does not complete the period  
 7 of active duty in a specialty specified in the agreement,  
 8 shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section  
 9 303a(e) of this title.

10 “(g) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement  
 11 under this section may be entered into after December 31,  
 12 2009.”.

13 (c) VARIABLE PAY, ADDITIONAL PAY, AND INCEN-  
 14 TIVE SPECIAL PAY FOR CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGISTS.—  
 15 Chapter 5 of such title is further amended by inserting  
 16 after section 302m, as added by subsection (b) of this sec-  
 17 tion, the following new section:

18 “§ 302n. **Special pay: clinical psychologists of the**  
 19 **armed forces**

20 “(a) VARIABLE PAY.—(1) An officer described in  
 21 subsection (d) who executes an agreement under sub-  
 22 section (e) is entitled to variable special pay in the amount  
 23 specified by the Secretary of the military department con-  
 24 cerned in the agreement of the officer under subsection  
 25 (e).

1       “(2) The amount of variable special pay payable to  
2 an officer under this subsection shall be the amount pay-  
3 able for the period of years of creditable service of the  
4 officer at the time of the officer’s entry into the agreement  
5 concerned under subsection (e). The Secretary of the mili-  
6 tary department concerned shall prescribe in regulations  
7 amounts of variable special pay payable for such various  
8 ranges of years of creditable service of an officer as a clin-  
9 ical psychologist as the regulations shall specify, except  
10 that the amount so payable may not exceed \$12,000 per  
11 year. The regulations shall include a method for deter-  
12 mining the creditable service of an officer as a clinical psy-  
13 chologist for purposes of this subsection.

14       “(b) ADDITIONAL SPECIAL PAY.—An officer who is  
15 entitled to variable special pay under subsection (a) may  
16 also be paid additional special pay for any 12-month pe-  
17 riod during with the agreement of the officer under sub-  
18 section (e) is in effect. The amount of such additional spe-  
19 cial pay for each 12-month period shall be the amount  
20 specified by the Secretary of the military department con-  
21 cerned in the agreement of the officer under subsection  
22 (e), but may not exceed \$15,000 per 12-month period.

23       “(c) INCENTIVE SPECIAL PAY.—(1) An officer who  
24 is entitled to variable special pay under subsection (a) may  
25 also be paid incentive special pay for any 12-month period

1 during which the agreement of the officer under sub-  
 2 section (e) is in effect. The amount of such incentive spe-  
 3 cial pay for each 12-month period shall be the amount  
 4 specified by the Secretary of the military department con-  
 5 cerned in the agreement of the officer under subsection  
 6 (e), but may not exceed \$5,000 per 12-month period.

7 “(2) Incentive special pay payable to an officer under  
 8 this subsection for any 12-month period is in addition to  
 9 additional special pay payable to the officer under sub-  
 10 section (b) for such 12-month period.

11 “(d) COVERED OFFICERS.—An officer described in  
 12 this subsection is an officer who—

13 “(1) is an officer of the Medical Service Corps  
 14 of the Army or the Navy or the Biomedical Sciences  
 15 Corps of the Air Force designated as a clinical psy-  
 16 chologist; and

17 “(2) is on active duty under a call or order to  
 18 active duty for a period of not less than one year.

19 “(e) AGREEMENT.—(1) An officer may not be paid  
 20 variable special pay under subsection (a), or additional  
 21 special pay under subsection (b) or incentive special pay  
 22 under subsection (c), for any 12-month period unless the  
 23 officer first executes a written agreement under which the  
 24 officer agrees to remain on active duty for a period of not



1 less than one year beginning on the date the officer ac-  
2 cepts the award of such special pay.

3 “(2) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary  
4 of Defense under section 303a(a) of this title, the Sec-  
5 retary of the military department concerned may termi-  
6 nate at any time an officer’s entitlement to the special pay  
7 under an agreement under paragraph (1). If such entitle-  
8 ment is terminated, the officer concerned shall be subject  
9 to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of this title.

10 “(f) FREQUENCY OF PAYMENTS.—(1) Variable spe-  
11 cial pay payable to an officer under subsection (a) shall  
12 be paid monthly.

13 “(2) Special pay payable to an officer under sub-  
14 section (b) or (c) shall be paid annually at the beginning  
15 of the 12-month period for which the officer is entitled  
16 to such payment.

17 “(g) REPAYMENT.—An officer who does not complete  
18 the period of active duty specified in the agreement re-  
19 ferred to in subsection (e) shall be subject to the repay-  
20 ment provisions of section 303a(e) of this title.

21 “(h) COORDINATION WITH OTHER SPECIAL PAY AU-  
22 THORITIES.—An officer paid variable special pay for a 12-  
23 month period under subsection (a) may also be paid spe-  
24 cial pay under section 302c(c) of this title for such 12-  
25 month period.

1 “(i) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement  
2 under this section may be entered into after December 31,  
3 2009.”.

4 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sections  
5 at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title is amended—

6 (1) by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
7 tion 301e the following new item:

“301f. Multiyear retention bonus: clinical psychologists of the armed forces.”;

8 and

9 (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
10 tion 302l the following new items:

“302m. Special pay: accession bonus for clinical psychologists in critically short  
wartime specialties.

“302n. Special pay: clinical psychologists of the armed forces.”.

11 **SEC. 3. ACCESSION BONUS AND SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES**  
12 **FOR SOCIAL WORKERS OF THE ARMED**  
13 **FORCES.**

14 (a) ACCESSION BONUS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS IN  
15 CRITICALLY SHORT WARTIME SPECIALTIES AUTHOR-  
16 IZED.—Chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, as  
17 amended by section 2 of this Act, is further amended by  
18 inserting after section 302n the following new section:

19 **“§ 302o. Special pay: accession bonus for social work-**  
20 **ers in critically short wartime specialties**

21 “(a) ACCESSION BONUS AUTHORIZED.—A person  
22 who is a graduate of a program accredited by the Council  
23 on Social Work Education with a graduate degree in social

1 work in a specialty designated by regulations as a critically  
2 short wartime specialty and who executes a written agree-  
3 ment described in subsection (d) to accept a commission  
4 as an officer of the armed forces and remain on active  
5 duty for a period of not less than three consecutive years  
6 may, upon the acceptance of the agreement by the Sec-  
7 retary of the military department concerned, be paid an  
8 accession bonus in the amount determined by the Sec-  
9 retary of the military department concerned.

10 “(b) AMOUNT OF BONUS.—The amount of an acces-  
11 sion bonus under subsection (a) may not exceed \$30,000.

12 “(c) LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY FOR BONUS.—A  
13 person may not be paid a bonus under subsection (a) if—

14 “(1) the person, in exchange for an agreement  
15 to accept an appointment as an officer, received fi-  
16 nancial assistance from the Department of Defense  
17 to pursue a course of study in social work; or

18 “(2) the Secretary of the military department  
19 concerned determines that the person is not quali-  
20 fied to become and remain licensed as a social work-  
21 er in a specialty designated by regulations as a criti-  
22 cally short wartime specialty.

23 “(d) AGREEMENT.—The agreement referred to in  
24 subsection (a) shall provide that, consistent with the needs  
25 of the armed force concerned, the person executing the

1 agreement will be assigned to duty for the period of obli-  
 2 gated service covered by the agreement, as an officer of  
 3 the Medical Service Corps of the Army or the Navy, or  
 4 as an officer of the Biomedical Sciences Corps of the Air  
 5 Force, in a specialty designated by regulations as a criti-  
 6 cally short wartime specialty.

7 “(e) PAYMENT IN INSTALLMENTS.—The bonus pay-  
 8 able under subsection (a) is payable in four equal annual  
 9 installments in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 per in-  
 10 stallment.

11 “(f) REPAYMENT.—A person who, after executing an  
 12 agreement under subsection (a) is not commissioned as  
 13 an officer of the armed forces, does not become licensed  
 14 as a social worker, or does not complete the period of ac-  
 15 tive duty in a specialty specified in the agreement, shall  
 16 be subject to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e)  
 17 of this title.

18 “(g) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement  
 19 under this section may be entered into after December 31,  
 20 2009.”.

21 (b) VARIABLE PAY, ADDITIONAL PAY, AND INCEN-  
 22 TIVE SPECIAL PAY FOR SOCIAL WORKERS.—Chapter 5 of  
 23 such title is further amended by inserting after the item  
 24 relating to section 302o, as added by subsection (a) of this  
 25 section, the following new section:

1 **“§ 302p. Special pay: social workers of the armed**  
2 **forces**

3 “(a) VARIABLE PAY.—(1) An officer described in  
4 subsection (d) who executes an agreement under sub-  
5 section (e) is entitled to variable special pay in the amount  
6 specified by the Secretary of the military department con-  
7 cerned in the agreement of the officer under subsection  
8 (e).

9 “(2) The amount of variable special pay payable to  
10 an officer under this subsection shall be the amount pay-  
11 able for the period of years of creditable service of the  
12 officer at the time of the officer’s entry into the agreement  
13 concerned under subsection (e). The Secretary of the mili-  
14 tary department concerned shall prescribe in regulations  
15 amounts of variable special pay payable for such various  
16 ranges of years of creditable service of an officer as a clin-  
17 ical psychologist as the regulations shall specify, except  
18 that the amount so payable may not exceed \$12,000 per  
19 year. The regulations shall include a method for deter-  
20 mining the creditable service of an officer as a clinical psy-  
21 chologist for purposes of this subsection.

22 “(b) ADDITIONAL SPECIAL PAY.—An officer who is  
23 entitled to variable special pay under subsection (a) may  
24 also be paid additional special pay for any 12-month pe-  
25 riod during with the agreement of the officer under sub-  
26 section (e) is in effect. The amount of such additional spe-

1 cial pay for each 12-month period shall be the amount  
 2 specified by the Secretary of the military department con-  
 3 cerned in the agreement of the officer under subsection  
 4 (e), but may not exceed \$15,000 per 12-month period.

5 “(c) INCENTIVE SPECIAL PAY.—(1) An officer who  
 6 is entitled to variable special pay under subsection (a) may  
 7 also be paid incentive special pay for any 12-month period  
 8 during which the agreement of the officer under sub-  
 9 section (e) is in effect. The amount of such incentive spe-  
 10 cial pay for each 12-month period shall be the amount  
 11 specified by the Secretary of the military department con-  
 12 cerned in the agreement of the officer under subsection  
 13 (e), but may not exceed \$5,000 per 12-month period.

14 “(2) Incentive special pay payable to an officer under  
 15 this subsection for any 12-month period is in addition to  
 16 additional special pay payable to the officer under sub-  
 17 section (b) for such 12-month period.

18 “(d) COVERED OFFICERS.—An officer described in  
 19 this subsection is an officer who—

20 “(1) is an officer of the Medical Service Corps  
 21 of the Army or the Navy or the Biomedical Sciences  
 22 Corps of the Air Force designated as a social work-  
 23 er; and

24 “(2) is on active duty under a call or order to  
 25 active duty for a period of not less than one year.

1       “(e) AGREEMENT.—(1) An officer may not be paid  
2 variable special pay under subsection (a), or additional  
3 special pay under subsection (b) or incentive special pay  
4 under subsection (c), for any 12-month period unless the  
5 officer first executes a written agreement under which the  
6 officer agrees to remain on active duty for a period of not  
7 less than one year beginning on the date the officer ac-  
8 cepts the award of such special pay.

9       “(2) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary  
10 of Defense under section 303a(a) of this title, the Sec-  
11 retary of the military department concerned may termi-  
12 nate at any time an officer’s entitlement to the special pay  
13 under an agreement under paragraph (1). If such entitle-  
14 ment is terminated, the officer concerned shall be subject  
15 to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of this title.

16       “(f) FREQUENCY OF PAYMENTS.—(1) Variable spe-  
17 cial pay payable to an officer under subsection (a) shall  
18 be paid monthly.

19       “(2) Special pay payable to an officer under sub-  
20 section (b) or (c) shall be paid annually at the beginning  
21 of the 12-month period for which the officer is entitled  
22 to such payment.

23       “(g) REPAYMENT.—An officer who does not complete  
24 the period of active duty specified in the agreement re-

ferred to in subsection (e) shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of this title.

“(h) COORDINATION WITH OTHER SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES.—An officer paid variable special pay for a 12-month period under subsection (a) may also be paid special pay under section 302c(d) of this title for such 12-month period.

“(i) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement under this section may be entered into after December 31, 2009.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title, as amended by section 2(d) of this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 302n the following new items:

“302o. Special pay: accession bonus for social workers in critically short wartime specialties.

“302p. Special pay: social workers of the armed forces.”.

**SEC. 4. VARIABLE PAY, ADDITIONAL PAY, AND INCENTIVE  
SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES FOR MENTAL  
HEALTH NURSES OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

(a) SPECIAL PAYS AUTHORIZED.—Chapter 5 of title 37, United States Code, as amended by section 3 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 302p the following new section:



1 **“§ 302q. Special pay: mental health nurses of the**  
2 **armed forces**

3 “(a) VARIABLE PAY.—(1) An officer described in  
4 subsection (d) who executes an agreement under sub-  
5 section (e) is entitled to variable special pay in the amount  
6 specified by the Secretary of the military department con-  
7 cerned in the agreement of the officer under subsection  
8 (e).

9 “(2) The amount of variable special pay payable to  
10 an officer under this subsection shall be the amount pay-  
11 able for the period of years of creditable service of the  
12 officer at the time of the officer’s entry into the agreement  
13 concerned under subsection (e). The Secretary of the mili-  
14 tary department concerned shall prescribe in regulations  
15 amounts of variable special pay payable for such various  
16 ranges of years of creditable service of an officer as a clin-  
17 ical psychologist as the regulations shall specify, except  
18 that the amount so payable may not exceed \$12,000 per  
19 year. The regulations shall include a method for deter-  
20 mining the creditable service of an officer as a clinical psy-  
21 chologist for purposes of this subsection.

22 “(b) ADDITIONAL SPECIAL PAY.—An officer who is  
23 entitled to variable special pay under subsection (a) may  
24 also be paid additional special pay for any 12-month pe-  
25 riod during with the agreement of the officer under sub-  
26 section (e) is in effect. The amount of such additional spe-

1 cial pay for each 12-month period shall be the amount  
 2 specified by the Secretary of the military department con-  
 3 cerned in the agreement of the officer under subsection  
 4 (e), but may not exceed \$15,000 per 12-month period.

5 “(c) INCENTIVE SPECIAL PAY.—(1) An officer who  
 6 is entitled to variable special pay under subsection (a) may  
 7 also be paid incentive special pay for any 12-month period  
 8 during which the agreement of the officer under sub-  
 9 section (e) is in effect. The amount of such incentive spe-  
 10 cial pay for each 12-month period shall be the amount  
 11 specified by the Secretary of the military department con-  
 12 cerned in the agreement of the officer under subsection  
 13 (e), but may not exceed \$5,000 per 12-month period.

14 “(2) Incentive special pay payable to an officer under  
 15 this subsection for any 12-month period is in addition to  
 16 additional special pay payable to the officer under sub-  
 17 section (b) for such 12-month period.

18 “(d) COVERED OFFICERS.—An officer described in  
 19 this subsection is an officer who—

20 “(1) is an officer of the Medical Service Corps  
 21 of the Army or the Navy or the Biomedical Sciences  
 22 Corps of the Air Force designated as a mental  
 23 health nurse; and

24 “(2) is on active duty under a call or order to  
 25 active duty for a period of not less than one year.

1       “(e) AGREEMENT.—(1) An officer may not be paid  
2 variable special pay under subsection (a), or additional  
3 special pay under subsection (b) or incentive special pay  
4 under subsection (c), for any 12-month period unless the  
5 officer first executes a written agreement under which the  
6 officer agrees to remain on active duty for a period of not  
7 less than one year beginning on the date the officer ac-  
8 cepts the award of such special pay.

9       “(2) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary  
10 of Defense under section 303a(a) of this title, the Sec-  
11 retary of the military department concerned may termi-  
12 nate at any time an officer’s entitlement to the special pay  
13 under an agreement under paragraph (1). If such entitle-  
14 ment is terminated, the officer concerned shall be subject  
15 to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of this title.

16       “(f) FREQUENCY OF PAYMENTS.—(1) Variable spe-  
17 cial pay payable to an officer under subsection (a) shall  
18 be paid monthly.

19       “(2) Special pay payable to an officer under sub-  
20 section (b) or (c) shall be paid annually at the beginning  
21 of the 12-month period for which the officer is entitled  
22 to such payment.

23       “(g) REPAYMENT.—An officer who does not complete  
24 the period of active duty specified in the agreement re-

ferred to in subsection (e) shall be subject to the repayment provisions of section 303a(e) of this title.

“(h) COORDINATION WITH OTHER SPECIAL PAY AUTHORITIES.—An officer paid variable special pay for a 12-month period under subsection (a) may also be paid special pay under section 302c(d) of this title for such 12-month period.

“(i) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—No agreement under this section may be entered into after December 31, 2009.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 5 of such title, as amended by section 3(c) of this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 302p the following new item:

“302q. Special pay: mental health nurses of the armed forces.”.

**SEC. 5. INCLUSION OF PSYCHIATRISTS, SOCIAL WORKERS,  
AND MENTAL HEALTH NURSES UNDER AUTHORITY FOR RETENTION INCENTIVES FOR MEMBERS QUALIFIED IN CRITICAL MILITARY SKILLS OR ASSIGNED TO HIGH PRIORITY UNITS.**

(a) INCLUSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The skills specified in paragraph (2) shall be treated as designated critical military skills under subsection (b)(1) of section 355 of

1 title 37, United States Code, for purposes of the  
2 award of the retention bonus authorized by sub-  
3 section (a) of section 355 of such title.

4 (2) COVERED SKILLS.—The skills specified in  
5 this paragraph are the skills as follows:

6 (A) Psychiatrist.

7 (B) Social worker.

8 (C) Mental health nurse.

9 (b) MAXIMUM BONUS AMOUNTS.—Section 355(d) of  
10 title 37, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
11 end the following new paragraph:

12 “(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this sub-  
13 section, the total bonus payments that a member may re-  
14 ceive under this section are limited as follows:

15 “(A) In the case of a member who is assigned  
16 duties as a psychiatrist, not more than \$25,000 for  
17 each year of the written agreement of the member  
18 under subsection (a).

19 “(B) In the case of a member who is assigned  
20 duties as a social worker, not more than \$7,000 for  
21 each year of the written agreement of the member  
22 under subsection (a).

23 “(C) In the case of a member who is assigned  
24 duties as a mental health nurse, not more than

1       \$15,000 for each year of the written agreement of  
 2       the member under subsection (a).”.

3 **SEC. 6. INCLUSION OF PSYCHIATRISTS, CLINICAL PSY-**  
 4 **CHOLOGISTS, SOCIAL WORKERS, MENTAL**  
 5 **HEALTH NURSES, AND OTHER BEHAVIORAL**  
 6 **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS UNDER THE**  
 7 **HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIP AND**  
 8 **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

9       (a) INCLUSION.—Under such regulations as the Sec-  
 10 retary of Defense may prescribe, the Secretary of each  
 11 military department may include individuals qualified in  
 12 the health professions specified in subsection (b) in the  
 13 health professions scholarship and financial assistance  
 14 program of such military department under subchapter I  
 15 of chapter 105 of title 10, United States Code.

16       (b) COVERED HEALTH PROFESSIONS.—The health  
 17 professions specified in this subsection are the health pro-  
 18 fessions as follows:

- 19           (1) Psychiatrist.
- 20           (2) Clinical psychologist.
- 21           (3) Social worker.
- 22           (4) Mental health nurse.
- 23           (5) Any other category of behavioral health pro-  
 24 fessional that the Secretary of the military depart-  
 25 ment concerned, in consultation with the Secretary

1 of Defense, considers appropriate for purposes of the  
 2 health professions scholarship and financial assist-  
 3 ance program of such military department.

4 **SEC. 7. AVAILABILITY OF AUTHORITIES FOR RECRUITMENT**  
 5 **AND RETENTION OF MENTAL HEALTH PRO-**  
 6 **FESSIONALS AS OFFICERS OF THE RESERVE**  
 7 **COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Under regulations prescribed by  
 9 the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of each military  
 10 department may utilize the authorities in this Act, and  
 11 the amendments made by this Act, to facilitate the recruit-  
 12 ment and retention in the reserve components of the  
 13 Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of such Secretary of  
 14 individuals qualified in the health professions specified in  
 15 subsection (b). Such regulations shall provide, to the max-  
 16 imum extent practicable, that the application of any au-  
 17 thority under this section to an individual for service in  
 18 a reserve component of the Armed Forces conform to the  
 19 application of such authority to similarly situated individ-  
 20 uals for service on active duty in the Armed Forces.

21 (b) COVERED HEALTH PROFESSIONS.—The health  
 22 professions specified in this subsection are the health pro-  
 23 fessions as follows:

- 24 (1) Psychiatrist.
- 25 (2) Clinical psychologist.

- 1 (3) Social worker.
- 2 (4) Mental health nurse.

