

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3282

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain veterans with readjustment and mental health care services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2009

Mr. RODRIGUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide certain veterans with readjustment and mental health care services, 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. PROGRAM ON PROVISION OF READJUSTMENT**
4 **AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO**
5 **VETERANS WHO SERVED IN OPERATION**
6 **IRAQI FREEDOM AND OPERATION ENDURING**
7 **FREEDOM.**

8 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
10 of Veterans Affairs shall establish a program to provide—

(1) to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, particularly veterans who served in such operations while in the National Guard and the Reserves—

(A) peer outreach services;

(B) peer support services;

(C) readjustment counseling and services described in section 1712A of title 38, United States Code; and

(D) mental health services; and

(2) to members of the immediate family of such a veteran, during the three-year period beginning on the date of the return of such veteran from deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, education, support, counseling, and mental health services to assist in—

(A) the readjustment of such veteran to civilian life;

(B) in the case such veteran has an injury or illness incurred during such deployment, the recovery of such veteran; and

(C) the readjustment of the family following the return of such veteran.

(b) CONTRACTS WITH COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS AND QUALIFIED ENTITIES FOR PRO-

1 VISION OF SERVICES.—In carrying out the program re-
2 quired by subsection (a), the Secretary shall contract with
3 community mental health centers and other qualified enti-
4 ties to provide the services required by such subsection
5 only in areas the Secretary determines are not adequately
6 served by other health care facilities of the Department
7 of Veterans Affairs. Such contracts shall require each con-
8 tracting community health center or entity—

9 (1) to the extent practicable, to employ veterans
10 trained under subsection (c);

11 (2) to the extent practicable, to use telehealth
12 services for the delivery of services required by sub-
13 section (a);

14 (3) to participate in the training program con-
15 ducted in accordance with subsection (d);

16 (4) to comply with applicable protocols of the
17 Department of Veterans Affairs before incurring any
18 liability on behalf of the Department for the provi-
19 sion of the services required by subsection (a);

20 (5) to submit annual reports to the Secretary
21 containing, with respect to the program required by
22 subsection (a) and for the last full calendar year
23 ending before the submission of such report—

24 (A) the number of the veterans served, vet-
25 erans diagnosed, and courses of treatment pro-

1 vided to veterans as part of the program re-
2 quired by subsection (a); and

3 (B) demographic information for such
4 services, diagnoses, and courses of treatment;

5 (6) for each veteran for whom a community
6 mental health center or other qualified entity pro-
7 vides mental health services under such contract, to
8 provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with
9 such clinical summary information as the Secretary
10 shall require; and

11 (7) to meet such other requirements as the Sec-
12 retary shall require.

13 (c) TRAINING OF VETERANS FOR THE PROVISION OF
14 PEER-OUTREACH AND PEER-SUPPORT SERVICES.—In
15 carrying out the program required by subsection (a), the
16 Secretary shall contract with a national not-for-profit
17 mental health organization to carry out a national pro-
18 gram of training for veterans described in subsection (a)
19 to provide the services described in subparagraphs (A) and
20 (B) of paragraph (1) of such subsection.

21 (d) TRAINING OF CLINICIANS FOR PROVISION OF
22 SERVICES.—The Secretary shall conduct a training pro-
23 gram for clinicians of community mental health centers
24 or entities that have contracts with the Secretary under

1 subsection (b) to ensure that such clinicians can provide
2 the services required by subsection (a) in a manner that—

3 (1) recognizes factors that are unique to the ex-
4 perience of veterans who served on active duty in
5 Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring
6 Freedom (including the combat and military training
7 experiences of such veterans); and

8 (2) uses best practices and technologies.

9 (e) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

10 (1) INITIAL REPORT ON PLAN FOR IMPLEMEN-
11 TATION.—Not later than 45 days after the date of
12 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
13 to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate
14 and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
15 House of Representatives a report containing the
16 plans of the Secretary to implement the program re-
17 quired by subsection (a).

18 (2) STATUS REPORT.—Not later than one year
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
20 retary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans'
21 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-
22 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a re-
23 port on the implementation of the program. Such re-
24 port shall include the following:

1 (A) Information on the number of veterans
2 who received services as part of the program
3 and the type of services received during the last
4 full calendar year completed before the submis-
5 sion of such report.

6 (B) An evaluation of the provision of serv-
7 ices under paragraph (2) of subsection (a) and
8 a recommendation as to whether the period de-
9 scribed in such paragraph should be extended
10 to a five-year period.

11 (C) An evaluation of the provision of serv-
12 ices under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of sub-
13 section (a)(1), including a list of each national
14 not-for-profit mental health organization that
15 provides such services pursuant to subsection
16 (c).

17 (D) An evaluation of the training provided
18 under subsection (d).

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