

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 785

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide outreach and training to certain college and university mental health centers relating to the mental health of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2009

Ms. TSONGAS (for herself and Mr. MICHAUD) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide outreach and training to certain college and university mental health centers relating to the mental health of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. PILOT PROGRAM ON OUTREACH AND TRAIN-**
2 **ING RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH OF VET-**
3 **ERANS OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM AND**
4 **OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.**

5 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
6 fairs shall carry out a four-year pilot program under which
7 the Secretary shall provide covered services to covered
8 mental health centers.

9 (b) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this Act:

10 (1) The term “covered mental health center”
11 means a counseling center, student health or
12 wellness center, or student services center at a col-
13 lege or university with a large enrollment of veterans
14 of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring
15 Freedom, as determined by the Secretary.

16 (2) The term “covered services” means out-
17 reach and training services related to the mental
18 health of veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and
19 Operation Enduring Freedom. Such services shall
20 include—

21 (A) training for clinicians on treatment for
22 mental illnesses commonly experienced by such
23 veterans;

24 (B) training on providing assistance to
25 such veterans in accessing mental health care

1 and services available through the Department
2 of Veterans Affairs;

3 (C) training for administrative staff who
4 interact with such veterans relating to crisis
5 management and other relevant skills;

6 (D) training of peer counselors on con-
7 ducting support groups for such veterans; and

8 (E) any other service the Secretary deter-
9 mines is necessary or appropriate.

10 (c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than two
11 years after the date of the enactment of this Act and not
12 later than 30 days after the last day of the pilot program
13 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Con-
14 gress a report on the pilot program. Each such report
15 shall include—

16 (1) the names of the colleges and universities at
17 which the Secretary is carrying out the pilot pro-
18 gram;

19 (2) the number of veterans of Operation Iraqi
20 Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom enrolled
21 at each such college or university;

22 (3) a description of the services carried out by
23 the Secretary under the pilot program;

24 (4) an assessment of the effectiveness of the
25 pilot program; and

1 (5) the recommendations of the Secretary with
2 respect to the extension or expansion of the pilot
3 program.

4 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
6 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2013.

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