

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3887

To provide for a continuation and expansion of the Wounded Warrior Careers Demonstration program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

Mr. BENNET introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To provide for a continuation and expansion of the Wounded Warrior Careers Demonstration program, 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. CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF WOUNDED**
4 **WARRIOR CAREERS DEMONSTRATION PRO-**
5 **GRAM.**

6 (a) CONTINUATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary of
7 the Army shall continue the Wounded Warrior Careers
8 Demonstration program being conducted in collaboration
9 with the Army Wounded Warrior program at three loca-
10 tions pursuant to the memorandum of understanding on

1 the program between the Army and the National Organi-
2 zation on Disability dated January 2007.

3 (b) EXPANSION OF PROGRAM.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army
5 shall expand the Wounded Warrior Careers Dem-
6 onstration program to nine additional locations in
7 fiscal year 2011. The expansion of the program shall
8 be conducted under the memorandum of under-
9 standing referred to in subsection (a), as modified
10 pursuant to subsection (f).

11 (2) ADDITIONAL PURPOSE OF EXPANDED PRO-
12 GRAM.—The purpose of the expansion of the
13 Wounded Warrior Careers Demonstration program
14 under this subsection shall be to identify and dis-
15 seminate best practices related to employment coun-
16 seling and job placement of severely wounded war-
17 riors into civilian communities and careers and to
18 otherwise assess the feasibility and advisability of
19 various additional means to support the transition
20 and reintegration of such warriors into such commu-
21 nities and careers.

22 (3) LOCATIONS.—Any location selected for the
23 expansion of the Wounded Warrior Careers Dem-
24 onstration program under this subsection shall be a
25 location at which the Army, or one or more of the

1 other Armed Forces, have a large concentration of
 2 severely wounded warriors who are ready for career
 3 and employment counseling.

4 (c) SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER PROGRAM.—

5 The services provided under the Wounded Warrior Ca-
 6 reers Demonstration program shall include career-develop-
 7 ment services for severely wounded warriors (and their
 8 spouses, if appropriate) that are consistent with their
 9 needs. Such services shall be provided by utilizing a
 10 proactive, intensive, extended case-management model (in-
 11 cluding individualized counseling) pursuant to which such
 12 warriors and their families receive assistance in the fol-
 13 lowing:

- 14 (1) Exploring career options.
- 15 (2) Obtaining education, skill, aptitude, and in-
 16 terest assessments.
- 17 (3) Preparing résumés and career plans.
- 18 (4) Acquiring additional education and training.
- 19 (5) Engaging with prospective employers.
- 20 (6) Entering into various kinds of occupations
 21 (whether full-time, part-time, paid, or volunteer, or
 22 self-employment as entrepreneurs or otherwise).
- 23 (7) Advancing in work entered into.
- 24 (8) Resolving obstacles through coordination
 25 with the military departments, other departments

1 and agencies of the Federal Government, State and
2 local governments, and other appropriate service and
3 benefits providers.

4 (d) MINIMUM DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The Sec-
5 retary of the Army shall carry out the Wounded Warrior
6 Careers Demonstration program until not earlier than the
7 date that is five years after the date of the enactment of
8 this Act.

9 (e) AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES UNDER PROGRAM TO
10 OTHER ARMED FORCES.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The services provided under
12 the Wounded Warrior Careers Demonstration pro-
13 gram may be provided to severely wounded warriors
14 of one or more of the other Armed Forces pursuant
15 to a joint agreement between the Secretary of the
16 Army, the Secretary of the military department hav-
17 ing jurisdiction over such Armed Force, and the Na-
18 tional Organization on Disability.

19 (2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Defense
20 shall ensure coordination between the Secretary of
21 the Army, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Sec-
22 retary of the Air Force regarding the participation
23 of members of other Armed Forces in the Wounded
24 Warrior Careers Demonstration program under this
25 subsection, including actions to encourage and facili-

1 tate the participation of such members in the pro-
2 gram when appropriate.

3 (f) MODIFICATIONS OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDER-
4 STANDING.—

5 (1) REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE
6 ARMY.—The Secretary of the Army and the National
7 Organization on Disability shall enter into such
8 modifications of the memorandum of understanding
9 referred to in subsection (a) as the Secretary and
10 the Organization jointly consider appropriate to
11 comply with the requirements of subsections (a)
12 through (d).

13 (2) REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO OTHER
14 ARMED FORCES.—Any provision of services under
15 the Wounded Warrior Careers Demonstration pro-
16 gram through a joint agreement described in sub-
17 section (e) shall be incorporated into the memo-
18 randum of understanding referred to in subsection
19 (a) in such manner as the Secretary of the Army,
20 the Secretary of the military department having ju-
21 risdiction over the Armed Force concerned, and the
22 National Organization on Disability jointly consider
23 appropriate.

24 (g) CONTINUATION OF DISSEMINATION OF LESSONS
25 LEARNED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army
2 shall continue to provide for the dissemination to
3 other Federal departments and agencies, State and
4 local governments, and appropriate nonprofit organi-
5 zations of lessons learned and best practices devel-
6 oped under the Wounded Warrior Careers Dem-
7 onstration program on the provision of benefits,
8 services, and support to severely wounded warriors.

9 (2) DISSEMINATION TO VA.—As part of the dis-
10 semination of information under paragraph (1), the
11 Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Veterans
12 Affairs shall undertake such joint programs, activi-
13 ties, and initiatives as the Secretaries consider ap-
14 propriate to facilitate and further the dissemination
15 to the Department of Veterans Affairs of such les-
16 sons and best practices as will be of particular use
17 to the Department in providing benefits, services,
18 and support to veterans who were severely wounded
19 warriors.

20 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON WOUNDED WARRIOR CAREERS DEM-**
21 **ONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after
23 the completion of the Wounded Warrior Careers Dem-
24 onstration program, the Secretary of Defense shall, in con-
25 junction with the National Organization on Disability

1 (NOD), submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and
2 to the appropriate committees of Congress, a report on
3 the program.

4 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
5 (a) shall include the following:

6 (1) A comprehensive description of the Wound-
7 ed Warrior Careers Demonstration program, includ-
8 ing the following:

9 (A) Information on job placement and re-
10 tention of wounded warriors who participated in
11 the program.

12 (B) A description and assessment of the
13 career services provided under the program to
14 wounded warriors experiencing Post-Traumatic
15 Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain
16 Injury (TBI).

17 (2) An assessment of the financial costs result-
18 ing from the failure of wounded warriors to gain em-
19 ployment or achieve self-sufficiency after service in
20 the Armed Forces.

21 (3) An assessment of the efficacy of the pro-
22 gram in preparing wounded warriors to meet the
23 challenges of employment after service in the Armed
24 Forces.

1 (4) Such recommendations as the Secretary
2 considers appropriate, including recommendations
3 for the continuation or enhancement of the services
4 provided under the program.

5 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) The term “appropriate committees of Con-
7 gress” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Armed Services and
9 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
10 and Pensions of the Senate; and

11 (B) the Committee on Armed Services and
12 the Committee on Ways and Means of the
13 House of Representatives.

14 (2) The term “National Organization on Dis-
15 ability” refers to the non-governmental organization
16 assisting the Department of the Army in carrying
17 out the Wounded Warrior Careers Demonstration
18 program in collaboration with the Army Wounded
19 Warrior Program.

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