

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 717

To designate certain non-Department mental health care providers who treat members of the Armed Forces and veterans as providers who have particular knowledge relating to the provision of mental health care to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 11, 2015

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

A BILL

To designate certain non-Department mental health care providers who treat members of the Armed Forces and veterans as providers who have particular knowledge relating to the provision of mental health care to members of the Armed Forces and veterans, 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 “Community Provider
5 Readiness Recognition Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN NON-DEPARTMENT**
2 **MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WITH**
3 **KNOWLEDGE RELATING TO TREATMENT OF**
4 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND VET-**
5 **ERANS.**

6 (a) MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDER READINESS DES-
7 IGNATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Af-
11 fairs shall jointly develop a system by which any
12 non-Department mental health care provider that
13 meets eligibility criteria jointly established by such
14 Secretaries relating to the knowledge described in
15 paragraph (2) receives a mental health provider
16 readiness designation from the Department of De-
17 fense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

18 (2) KNOWLEDGE.—The knowledge described in
19 this paragraph is the following:

20 (A) Knowledge, comfort, and under-
21 standing with respect to the culture of members
22 of the Armed Forces, veterans, and family
23 members and caregivers of members of the
24 Armed Forces and veterans.

25 (B) Knowledge with respect to evidence-
26 based treatments that have been approved by

1 the Department of Defense and the Department
 2 of Veterans Affairs for the treatment of mental
 3 health issues among members of the Armed
 4 Forces and veterans.

5 (b) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION ON DESIGNA-
 6 TION.—

7 (1) REGISTRY.—The Secretary of Defense and
 8 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly estab-
 9 lish and update a registry that is available to the
 10 public of all non-Department mental health care pro-
 11 viders that are currently designated under sub-
 12 section (a)(1).

13 (2) PROVIDER LIST.—The Secretary concerned
 14 shall update all lists maintained by such Secretary
 15 of non-Department mental health care providers that
 16 provide mental health care under the laws adminis-
 17 tered by such Secretary by indicating the providers
 18 that are currently designated under subsection
 19 (a)(1); and

20 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) NON-DEPARTMENT MENTAL HEALTH CARE
 22 PROVIDER.—The term “non-Department mental
 23 health care provider”—

24 (A) means a health care provider that—

25 (i) specializes in mental health;

1 (ii) is not a health care provider of
2 the Department of Defense or the Depart-
3 ment of Veterans Affairs; and

4 (iii) provides health care to members
5 of the Armed Forces or veterans; and

6 (B) includes psychiatrists, psychologists,
7 psychiatric nurses, social workers, mental
8 health counselors, marriage and family thera-
9 pists, and other mental health care providers
10 designated by the Secretary of Defense and
11 Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

12 (2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term “Sec-
13 retary concerned” means—

14 (A) the Secretary of Defense with respect
15 to matters concerning the Department of De-
16 fense; and

17 (B) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with
18 respect to matters concerning the Department
19 of Veterans Affairs.

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