

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 832

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the provision of behavioral health readiness services to certain members of the Selected Reserve of the Armed Forces based on need, to expand eligibility to such members for readjustment counseling from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 23, 2015

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

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the provision of behavioral health readiness services to certain members of the Selected Reserve of the Armed Forces based on need, to expand eligibility to such members for readjustment counseling from the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Care and Readiness
5 Enhancement for Reservists Act of 2015” or the “CARE
6 for Reservists Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH READINESS**
2 **SERVICES TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE SE-**
3 **LECTED RESERVE BASED ON NEED.**

4 (a) **PROVISION AUTHORIZED.**—Section 1074a(g) of
5 title 10, United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
7 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
9 lowing new paragraph (2):

10 “(2) The Secretary concerned may also provide to
11 any member of the Selected Reserve not described in sub-
12 section (d)(1) or (f) care for behavioral health conditions
13 if the Secretary determines, based on the most recent med-
14 ical exam or mental health assessment of such member,
15 that the receipt of such care by such member will ensure
16 that such member meets applicable standards of medical
17 readiness.”.

18 (b) **FUNDING.**—Subject to applicable provisions of
19 appropriations Acts, amounts available to the Department
20 of Defense for the Defense Health Program shall be avail-
21 able for the provision of behavioral health services under
22 section 1074a(g) of title 10, United States Code (as
23 amended by subsection (a)).

24 (c) **BUDGETING FOR HEALTH CARE.**—In deter-
25 mining the amounts to be required for behavioral health
26 services for members of the Selected Reserve under section

1 1074a(g) of title 10, United States Code (as so amended),
 2 for purposes of the budget of the President for fiscal years
 3 after fiscal year 2016, as submitted to Congress pursuant
 4 to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Assist-
 5 ant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs shall consult
 6 with appropriate officials having responsibility for the ad-
 7 ministration of the reserve components of the Armed
 8 Forces, including the Chief of the National Guard Bureau
 9 with respect to the National Guard.

10 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR READJUSTMENT**
 11 **COUNSELING FROM DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
 12 **ERANS AFFAIRS TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF**
 13 **THE SELECTED RESERVE OF THE ARMED**
 14 **FORCES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1712A(a)(1) of title 38,
 16 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
 17 following new subparagraph:

18 “(D)(i) The Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
 19 retary of Defense, may furnish to any member of the Se-
 20 lected Reserve of the Armed Forces who has a behavioral
 21 health condition or psychological trauma, counseling under
 22 subparagraph (A)(i), which may include a comprehensive
 23 individual assessment under subparagraph (B)(i).

24 “(ii) A member of the Selected Reserve of the Armed
 25 Forces described in clause (i) shall not be required to ob-

1 tain a referral before being furnished counseling or an as-
2 essment under this subparagraph.”.

3 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
4 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is one
5 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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