

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6125

To direct the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to coordinate support for survivors of sexual trauma.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2020

Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DEFazio, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to coordinate support for survivors of sexual trauma.

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 “Supporting Survivors
5 of Military Sexual Trauma Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF**
2 **SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretaries of De-
5 fense and Veterans Affairs shall jointly develop, imple-
6 ment, and maintain a standard of coordinated care for
7 members of the Armed Forces who are survivors of sexual
8 trauma. Such standard shall include the following:

9 (b) MINIMUM ELEMENTS.—The standard developed
10 and implemented under subsection (a) by the Secretaries
11 of Defense and Veterans Affairs shall include the fol-
12 lowing:

13 (1) INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE
14 ARMED FORCES.—The Secretary of Defense shall en-
15 sure that—

16 (A) information is posted in each facility of
17 the Department of Defense regarding services
18 furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
19 to survivors of sexual trauma; and

20 (B) Sexual Assault Response Coordinators
21 and Uniformed Victim Advocates receive annual
22 training on resources of the Department of Vet-
23 erans Affairs regarding sexual trauma.

24 (2) COORDINATION BETWEEN STAFF OF THE
25 DEPARTMENTS.—The Secretaries shall ensure that a
26 Sexual Assault Response Coordinator or Uniformed

1 Victim Advocate of the Department of Defense who
2 receives a report of an instance of sexual trauma
3 connects each survivor to the Military Sexual Trau-
4 ma Coordinator of the Department of Veterans Af-
5 fairs at the facility of that Department nearest to
6 the residence of that survivor.

7 (c) REPORTS.—

8 (1) REPORT ON RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT.—

9 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, the Secretaries of Defense and
11 Veterans Affairs shall provide a report to the appro-
12 priate committees of Congress regarding the avail-
13 ability of residential treatment programs for sur-
14 vivors of sexual trauma, including—

15 (A) barriers to access for such programs;

16 and

17 (B) resources required to reduce such bar-
18 riers.

19 (2) INITIAL REPORT.—Upon implementation of
20 the standard under subsection (a), the Secretaries of
21 Defense and Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to
22 the appropriate committees of Congress a report on
23 the standard.

24 (3) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 180
25 days after submitting the initial report under para-

graph (2), and on December 1 of each subsequent year, the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the progress of the Secretaries in implementing and improving the standard.

(4) UPDATES.—Whenever the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs update the standard developed under subsection (a), the Secretaries shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on such update, including a comprehensive and detailed description of such update and the reasons for such update.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) The term “sexual trauma” means psychological trauma described in section 1720D(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate; and

(B) the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

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