

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2699

To direct the Secretary of Defense to more effectively provide mental health resources for members of the Armed Forces at high risk of suicide, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 25, 2017

Mr. KILDEE (for himself and Mr. MOULTON) 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 Secretary of Defense to more effectively provide mental health resources for members of the Armed Forces at high risk of suicide, 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. MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS**
4 **OF THE ARMED FORCES AT HIGH RISK OF**
5 **SUICIDE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall
7 develop a methodology that identifies which members and
8 units of the Armed Forces are at high risk of suicide.

1 (b) MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES.—

2 (1) HIGH RISK MEMBERS OF THE ARMED
3 FORCES.—The Secretary of Defense shall use the re-
4 sults under subsection (c) to—

5 (A) identify which units have a dispropor-
6 tionately high rate of suicide and suicide at-
7 tempts; and

8 (B) provide additional preventative and
9 treatment resources for mental health for mem-
10 bers of the Armed Forces who were deployed
11 with the units identified under subparagraph
12 (A).

13 (2) PREVENTATIVE MENTAL HEALTH CARE.—
14 The Secretary of Defense shall use the results under
15 subsection (c) to—

16 (A) identify the circumstances of deploy-
17 ments associated with increased vulnerability to
18 suicide, including the length of deployment, the
19 region and area of deployment, and the nature
20 and extent to which there was contact with
21 enemy forces; and

22 (B) provide additional preventative mental
23 health care to units who currently are, or will
24 be, deployed under circumstances similar to
25 those of subparagraph (A).

1 (c) METHODOLOGY.—Not later than 180 days after
2 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
3 Defense shall develop a methodology to assess the rate of
4 suicide and suicide attempts of members of the Armed
5 Forces of units that have been deployed in support of a
6 contingency operation after September 11, 2001.

7 (d) OUTREACH FOR HIGH-RISK VETERANS.—The
8 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall use the results under
9 subsection (c) to provide outreach regarding the available
10 preventative and treatment resources for mental health for
11 veterans who—

12 (1) were deployed with the units identified
13 under this subsection; and

14 (2) are enrolled in the health care system of the
15 Department of Veterans Affairs.

16 (e) REPORTS.—Not later than September 30, 2018,
17 the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans
18 Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Armed Services
19 and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
20 Representatives and the Committee on Armed Services
21 and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate a
22 report on the activities carried out under this section and
23 the effectiveness of such activities.

24 (f) RESTRICTION ON USE OF INFORMATION.—Infor-
25 mation disclosed or obtained pursuant to the provisions

1 of this section may be used by officers, employees, and
2 contractors of the Department of Defense and the Depart-
3 ment of Veterans Affairs only for the purposes of, and
4 to the extent necessary in, carrying out this section.

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