

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1463

To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the mental health assessments provided to members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of a contingency operation.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 10, 2013

Mr. CARSON of Indiana (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. ENYART) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve the mental health assessments provided to members of the Armed Forces deployed in support of a contingency operation.

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 “Military Suicide Re-  
5 duction Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF**  
2 **THE ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT**  
3 **OF A CONTINGENCY OPERATION.**

4 (a) **INCREASED ASSESSMENTS.**—Subsection (a) of  
5 section 1074m of title 10, United States Code, is amend-  
6 ed—

7 (1) in paragraph (1)—

8 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)  
9 and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respec-  
10 tively; and

11 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (A)  
12 the following new subparagraph (B):

13 “(B) Once during each 180-day period in which  
14 the member is so deployed.”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “subpara-  
16 graph (B) and (C)” and inserting “subparagraphs  
17 (C) and (D)”.

18 (b) **DEPLOYMENT ASSESSMENTS BY MEDICAL PRO-**  
19 **FESSIONALS.**—Subsection (c) of such section is amend-  
20 ed—

21 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “The mental  
22 health” and inserting “Except as provided by para-  
23 graph (3), the mental health”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following new  
25 paragraph:

1       “(3)(A) If the Secretary determines that a mental  
2 health assessment conducted under subsection (a)(1)(B)  
3 cannot be performed by an individual described in clause  
4 (i) or (ii) of paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall ensure  
5 that the mental health assessment is conducted using an  
6 Internet-based questionnaire.

7       “(B) After a member completes a questionnaire con-  
8 ducted under subparagraph (A), the immediate com-  
9 manding officer of the member shall complete a separate  
10 Internet-based questionnaire regarding the observations of  
11 the commanding officer with respect to the mental health  
12 of the member. The commanding officer may not have ac-  
13 cess to the questionnaire of the member conducted under  
14 subparagraph (A).

15       “(C) The Secretary shall ensure that the question-  
16 naires conducted under subparagraphs (A) and (B) to as-  
17 sess a member are combined and such combined document  
18 is reviewed and acted upon by personnel described in para-  
19 graph (1)(A) in the same manner as an assessment con-  
20 ducted pursuant to subparagraph (A), (C), or (D) of sub-  
21 section (a)(1).

22       “(D) Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to  
23 treat a questionnaire conducted under subparagraph (A)  
24 or subparagraph (B) as being exempt from Department  
25 of Defense Directive 6025.18, a successor directive, or any

1 other relevant regulation regarding privacy prescribed pur-  
2 suant to the Health Insurance Portability and Account-  
3 ability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–191).”.

4 (c) UNIFORM STANDARDS ASSESSMENTS.—Such sec-  
5 tion is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (e)(1)(D), by striking “con-  
7 sistent” and inserting “uniform”; and

8 (2) in subsection (f)(1), by adding at the end  
9 the following new sentence: “Such regulations shall  
10 ensure that this section is carried out in a uniform  
11 manner among the military departments.”.

12 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (d) of  
13 such section is amended by striking “subsection  
14 (a)(1)(C)” and inserting “subsection (a)(1)(D)”.

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