

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3972

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. O’ROURKE, 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 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to more effectively provide mental health resources for members of the Armed Forces and veterans 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Honoring our Return-
5 ing Veterans and Service Members Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS OF**
2 **THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the
4 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall more effectively pro-
5 vide mental health resources for members of the Armed
6 Forces and veterans by jointly developing a methodology
7 that identifies which members of the Armed Forces and
8 veterans are at high risk of suicide.

9 (b) MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES.—

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

13 (A) identify which units have a dispropor-
14 tionately high rate of suicide and suicide at-
15 tempts; and

16 (B) provide additional preventative and
17 treatment resources for mental health for mem-
18 bers of the Armed Forces who were deployed
19 with the units identified under subparagraph
20 (A).

21 (2) HIGH RISK VETERANS.—The Secretary of
22 Veterans Affairs shall use the results under sub-
23 section (c) to—

24 (A) identify which units have a dispropor-
25 tionately high rate of suicide and suicide at-
26 tempts; and

1 (B) provide additional preventative and
2 treatment resources for mental health for vet-
3 erans who were deployed with the units identi-
4 fied under subparagraph (A).

5 (3) PREVENTATIVE MENTAL HEALTH CARE.—
6 The Secretary of Defense shall use the results under
7 subsection (c) to—

8 (A) identify the circumstances of deploy-
9 ments associated with increased vulnerability to
10 suicide, including the length of deployment, the
11 region and area of deployment, and the nature
12 and extent to which there was contact with
13 enemy forces; and

14 (B) provide additional preventative mental
15 health care to units who currently are, or will
16 be, deployed under circumstances similar to
17 those of subparagraph (A).

18 (c) METHODOLOGY.—Not later than 6 months after
19 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
20 Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly
21 develop a methodology to assess the following:

22 (1) RATE OF SUICIDE AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
23 OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—The Sec-
24 retary of Defense shall assess the rate of suicide and
25 suicide attempts of members of the Armed Forces of

1 units that have been deployed in support of a contin-
2 gency operation after September 11, 2001.

3 (2) RATE OF SUICIDE AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS
4 OF VETERANS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 shall assess the rate of suicide and suicide attempts
6 of veterans of units that have been deployed in sup-
7 port of a contingency operation after September 11,
8 2001.

9 (d) REPORTS.—On an annual basis, the Secretary of
10 Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly
11 submit to the Committee on Armed Services of the House
12 of Representatives, the Committee on Armed Services of
13 the Senate, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
14 House of Representatives, and the Committee on Vet-
15 erans' Affairs of the Senate a report on the activities car-
16 ried out under this section and the effectiveness of such
17 activities.

18 (e) RESTRICTION ON USE OF INFORMATION.—Infor-
19 mation disclosed or obtained pursuant to the provisions
20 of this section may be used by officers, employees, and
21 contractors of the Department of Defense and the Depart-
22 ment of Veterans Affairs only for the purposes of, and
23 to the extent necessary in, carrying out this section.

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