

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3016

To direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to jointly operate the Federal Recovery Coordination Program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

Mr. BARROW 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

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to jointly operate the Federal Recovery Coordination Program, 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. JOINT OPERATION OF FEDERAL RECOVERY CO-**  
4 **ORDINATION PROGRAM.**

5 (a) FEDERAL RECOVERY COORDINATION PRO-  
6 GRAM.—In carrying out the Federal Recovery Coordina-  
7 tion Program (in this section referred to as the “Pro-

1 gram’'), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of  
2 Veterans Affairs shall ensure that—

3 (1) the program is operated jointly by the Sec-  
4 retaries;

5 (2) the administration of the Program is not  
6 delegated to an individual outside the respective of-  
7 fice of each Secretary;

8 (3) the program assists—

9 (A) members of the Armed Forces with se-  
10 vere or catastrophic injuries or illnesses who are  
11 unlikely to return to active duty and will most  
12 likely be medically separated under chapter 61  
13 of title 10, United States Code; and

14 (B) members of the Armed Forces and vet-  
15 erans whose individual circumstances (including  
16 illness, injury, mental health, family situation,  
17 and unique benefit needs) are determined by  
18 the Secretary concerned to cause difficulties to  
19 the member or veteran in transitioning to civil-  
20 ian life;

21 (4) in referring members and veterans de-  
22 scribed in paragraph (3) to the Program, the Sec-  
23 retary of each military department and the Sec-  
24 retary of Veterans Affairs makes such referrals at  
25 the earliest time feasible, including by the date that

1 is 180 days before the last day of the month in  
2 which a member is expected to be retired or sepa-  
3 rated from the Armed Forces; and

4 (5) each department and agency of the Federal  
5 Government, including the Department of Defense  
6 and the Department of Veterans Affairs, provides a  
7 Federal Recovery Coordinator of the Program with  
8 the information, coordination, and cooperation nec-  
9 essary for the Coordinator to assist members and  
10 veterans participating in the Program, including the  
11 maximum amount of information, coordination, and  
12 cooperation available to allow the Coordinator to—

13 (A) ensure the efficient recovery, transi-  
14 tion, and reintegration of such members and  
15 veterans;

16 (B) act as a liaison between such members  
17 and veterans and the team of care providers  
18 and other personnel involved with the recovery,  
19 transition, and reintegration of the member or  
20 veteran, regardless of whether such team is  
21 under the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary  
22 of Veterans Affairs; and

23 (C) work closely with case and care-man-  
24 agement programs that assist such members  
25 and veterans.

1 (b) PLAN AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDER-  
2 STANDING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the  
3 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the  
4 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

5 (1) jointly develop a plan to carry out sub-  
6 section (a);

7 (2) enter into a memorandum of understanding  
8 to jointly carry out the plan beginning 90 days after  
9 the date on which the memorandum is entered into;  
10 and

11 (3) jointly submit to the appropriate congres-  
12 sional committees such plan and memorandum.

13 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
14 on which the memorandum of understanding under para-  
15 graph (2) of subsection (b) goes into effect, the Secretary  
16 of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall  
17 jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
18 a report describing and evaluating the implementation of  
19 such memorandum and plan under paragraph (1) of such  
20 subsection.

21 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES  
22 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-  
23 gressional committees” means the following:

24 (1) The Committees on Armed Services of the  
25 House of Representatives and Senate.

- 1           (2) The Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the
- 2           House of Representatives and Senate.

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