

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1465

To authorize a pilot program on enhancements of Department of Defense efforts on mental health in the National Guard and Reserves through community partnerships, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2011

Mr. REED (for himself, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize a pilot program on enhancements of Department of Defense efforts on mental health in the National Guard and Reserves through community partnerships, 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 “Joining Forces for
5 Military Mental Health Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON ENHANCEMENTS OF DEPART-**
2 **MENT OF DEFENSE EFFORTS ON MENTAL**
3 **HEALTH IN THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RE-**
4 **SERVES THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNER-**
5 **SHIPS.**

6 (a) PILOT PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
8 may carry out a pilot program to assess the feasi-
9 bility and advisability of enhancing the efforts of the
10 Department of Defense in research, treatment, edu-
11 cation, and outreach on mental health and substance
12 use disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) in
13 members of the National Guard and Reserves, their
14 family members, and their caregivers through com-
15 munity partners described in subsection (c).

16 (2) DURATION.—The duration of the pilot pro-
17 gram may not exceed three years.

18 (b) GRANTS.—In carrying out the pilot program, the
19 Secretary may award not more than five grants to commu-
20 nity partners described in subsection (c). Any grant so
21 awarded shall be awarded using a competitive and merit-
22 based award process.

23 (c) COMMUNITY PARTNERS.—A community partner
24 described in this subsection is a private non-profit organi-
25 zation or institution (or multiple organizations and insti-
26 tutions) that—

1 (1) engages in each of the research, treatment,
2 education, and outreach activities described in sub-
3 section (d); and

4 (2) meets such qualifications for treatment as a
5 community partner as the Secretary shall establish
6 for purposes of the pilot program.

7 (d) ACTIVITIES.—Amounts awarded under a grant
8 under the pilot program shall be utilized by the community
9 partner awarded the grant for one or more of the fol-
10 lowing:

11 (1) To engage in research on the causes, devel-
12 opment, and innovative treatment of mental health
13 and substance use disorders and Traumatic Brain
14 Injury in members of the National Guard and Re-
15 serves, their family members, and their caregivers.

16 (2) To provide treatment to such members and
17 their families for such mental health and substance
18 use disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury.

19 (3) To identify and disseminate evidence-based
20 treatments of mental health and substance use dis-
21 orders and Traumatic Brain Injury described in
22 paragraph (1).

23 (4) To provide outreach and education to such
24 members, their families and caregivers, and the pub-
25 lic about mental health and substance use disorders

1 and Traumatic Brain Injury described in paragraph
2 (1).

3 (e) REQUIREMENT FOR MATCHING FUNDS.—

4 (1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may award
5 a grant under this section to an organization or in-
6 stitution (or organizations and institutions) only if
7 the awardee agrees to make contributions toward the
8 costs of activities carried out with the grant, from
9 non-Federal sources (whether public or private), an
10 amount equal to not less than \$3 for each \$1 of
11 funds provided under the grant.

12 (2) NATURE OF NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBU-
13 TIONS.—Contributions from non-Federal sources for
14 purposes of paragraph (1) may be in cash or in-
15 kind, fairly evaluated. Amounts provided by the Fed-
16 eral Government, or services assisted or subsidized
17 to any significant extent by the Federal Government,
18 may not be included in determining the amount of
19 contributions from non-Federal sources for such
20 purposes.

21 (f) APPLICATION.—An organization or institution (or
22 organizations and institutions) seeking a grant under this
23 section shall submit to the Secretary an application there-
24 fore in such a form and containing such information as

1 the Secretary considers appropriate, including the fol-
2 lowing:

3 (1) A description how the activities proposed to
4 be carried out with the grant will help improve col-
5 laboration and coordination on research initiatives,
6 treatment, and education and outreach on mental
7 health and substance use disorders and Traumatic
8 Brain Injury among the Armed Forces.

9 (2) A description of existing efforts by the ap-
10 plicant to put the research described in (c)(1) into
11 practice.

12 (3) If the application comes from multiple orga-
13 nizations and institutions, how the activities pro-
14 posed to be carried out with the grant would im-
15 prove coordination and collaboration among such or-
16 ganizations and institutions.

17 (4) If the applicant proposes to provide services
18 or treatment to members of the Armed Forces or
19 family members using grant amounts, reasonable as-
20 surances that such services or treatment will be pro-
21 vided by a qualified provider.

22 (5) Plans to comply with subsection (g).

23 (g) EXCHANGE OF MEDICAL AND CLINICAL INFOR-
24 MATION.—A community partner awarded a grant under
25 the pilot program shall agree to any requirements for the

1 sharing of medical or clinical information obtained pursu-
2 ant to the grant that the Secretary shall establish for pur-
3 poses of the pilot program. The exchange of medical or
4 clinical information pursuant to this subsection shall com-
5 ply with applicable privacy and confidentiality laws.

6 (h) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
7 retary of Defense shall share with the Secretary of Vet-
8 erans Affairs information on best practices in research,
9 treatment, education, and outreach on mental health and
10 substance use disorders and Traumatic Brain Injury iden-
11 tified by the Secretary of Defense as a result of the pilot
12 program.

13 (i) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days before the
14 completion of the pilot program, the Secretary of Defense
15 shall submit to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and to
16 Congress, a report on the pilot program. The report shall
17 include the following:

18 (1) A description of the pilot program, includ-
19 ing the community partners awarded grants under
20 the pilot program, the amount of grants so awarded,
21 and the activities carried out using such grant
22 amounts.

23 (2) A description of any research efforts ad-
24 vanced using such grant amounts.

1 (3) The number of members of the National
2 Guard and Reserves provided treatment or services
3 by community partners using such grant amounts,
4 and a summary of the types of treatment and serv-
5 ices so provided.

6 (4) A description of the education and outreach
7 activities undertaken using such grant amounts.

8 (5) A description of efforts to exchange clinical
9 information under subsection (g).

10 (6) A description and assessment of the effec-
11 tiveness and achievements of the pilot program with
12 respect to research, treatment, education, and out-
13 reach on mental health and substance use disorders
14 and Traumatic Brain Injury.

15 (7) Such recommendations as the Secretary of
16 Defense considers appropriate in light of the pilot
17 program on the utilization of organizations and in-
18 stitutions such as community partners under the
19 pilot program in efforts of the Department described
20 in subsection (a).

21 (8) A description of the metrics used by the
22 Secretary in making recommendations under para-
23 graph (7).

24 (j) AVAILABLE FUNDS.—Funds for the pilot program
25 shall be derived from amounts authorized to be appro-

1 priated for the Department of Defense for Defense Health
2 Program and otherwise available for obligation and ex-
3 penditure.

4 (k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “family
5 member” and “caregiver”, in the case of a member of the
6 National Guard or Reserves, have the meaning given such
7 terms in section 1720G(d) of title 38, United States Code,
8 with respect to a veteran.

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