

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 579

To amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to provide members of the Individual Ready Reserve, Individual Mobilization Augmentees, and inactive members of the National Guard who served in Afghanistan or Iraq with information on counseling to prevent suicide, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 15, 2011

Mr. LAUTENBERG introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to provide members of the Individual Ready Reserve, Individual Mobilization Augmentees, and inactive members of the National Guard who served in Afghanistan or Iraq with information on counseling to prevent 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 “Sergeant Coleman S.
5 Bean Reserve Component Suicide Prevention Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUICIDE AMONG MEMBERS OF THE INDIVIDUAL**
2 **READY RESERVE AND INDIVIDUAL MOBILIZA-**
3 **TION AUGMENTEES.**

4 (a) FINDING.—Congress finds that a veteran who is
5 either a member of the Individual Ready Reserve, an Indi-
6 vidual Mobilization Augmentee, or an inactive member of
7 the National Guard and is not assigned to a unit that
8 musters regularly and has an established support struc-
9 ture is less likely to be helped by existing suicide preven-
10 tion programs carried out by the Secretary of Defense and
11 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

12 (b) IN GENERAL.—

13 (1) SUICIDE PREVENTION.—Chapter 55 of title
14 10, United States Code, is amended by adding after
15 section 1074l the following new section:

16 **“§ 1074m. Suicide prevention for members of the In-**
17 **dividual Ready Reserve, individual mobi-**
18 **lization augmentees, and inactive mem-**
19 **bers of the National Guard**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall
21 ensure that each covered member receives a telephone call
22 described in subsection (b) not less than once every 90
23 days during the period in which—

24 “(1) the covered member is a member of the In-
25 dividual Ready Reserve;

1 “(2) the Secretary determines that the covered
2 member is an individual mobilization augmentee; or

3 “(3) the covered member is a member of the in-
4 active National Guard.

5 “(b) COUNSELING CALL.—A telephone call described
6 in this subsection is a call from properly trained personnel
7 to determine the emotional, psychological, medical, and ca-
8 reer needs and concerns of the covered member.

9 “(c) REFERRAL.—(1) The personnel making a tele-
10 phone call described in subsection (b) shall refer a covered
11 member identified as being at-risk of self-caused harm to
12 the nearest military medical treatment facility, accredited
13 TRICARE provider, or other private provider in accord-
14 ance with paragraph (3) for immediate evaluation and
15 treatment by a qualified mental health care provider.

16 “(2) If a covered member is referred under paragraph
17 (1), the Secretary shall confirm that the member has re-
18 ceived the evaluation and any necessary treatment.

19 “(3) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary
20 shall refer a covered member to a qualified private mental
21 health care provider if the Secretary determines that such
22 private provider will ensure that such member will receive
23 treatment and assistance without delay.

1 “(d) REPORTS.—Not later than January 31 of each
2 year, beginning in 2013, the Secretary shall submit to
3 Congress a report on—

4 “(1) the number of covered members who have
5 been referred for counseling or mental health treat-
6 ment under this section, as well as the health and
7 career status of such members; and

8 “(2) any resource, regulatory, or statutory
9 issues that may be impeding the counseling calls
10 under this section from reaching all covered mem-
11 bers.

12 “(e) COVERED MEMBER DEFINED.—In this section,
13 the term ‘covered member’ means—

14 “(1) a member of the Individual Ready Reserve
15 described in section 10144(b) of this title who has
16 deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq in support of a con-
17 tingency operation on or after September 11, 2001;

18 “(2) a member of a reserve component who the
19 Secretary determines is an individual mobilization
20 augmentee who has deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq
21 in support of a contingency operation on or after
22 September 11, 2001; or

23 “(3) a member of the inactive National Guard
24 who has deployed to Afghanistan or Iraq in support

1 of a contingency operation on or after September 11,
2 2001.”.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
4 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
5 by inserting after the item relating to section 1074l
6 the following new item:

“1074m. Suicide prevention for members of the Individual Ready Reserve, indi-
vidual mobilization augmentees, and inactive members of the
National Guard.”.

7 (c) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the
8 United States, in cooperation with the Secretary of De-
9 fense, shall submit to Congress a report on suicide among
10 covered members (as defined in section 1074m(e) of title
11 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (b)), in-
12 cluding how many such members who have separated from
13 service have committed suicide.

14 (d) USE OF PEER COUNSELING.—Consistent with
15 the findings of the August 2010 report titled “The Final
16 Report of the Department of Defense Task Force on the
17 Prevention of Suicide by Members of the Armed Forces”,
18 the Secretary of Defense shall develop, evaluate, and more
19 widely disseminate programs (including peer-to-peer coun-
20 seling) that promote—

21 (1) connectedness between members of the
22 Armed Forces and the family, peers, and the imme-
23 diate chain of command of the members; and

- 1 (2) suicide risk identification and response with
- 2 particular emphasis on members of the Reserve
- 3 Components.

