

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4798

To provide a combat status identifier equivalent for remotely piloted aircraft crew who conduct combat operations, and require a study to identify opportunities to provide more support services to, and greater recognition of, their combat accomplishments.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2024

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. CRAMER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To provide a combat status identifier equivalent for remotely piloted aircraft crew who conduct combat operations, and require a study to identify opportunities to provide more support services to, and greater recognition of, their combat accomplishments.

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 “Combat Action Rec-
5 ognition and Evaluation (CARE) for Remotely Piloted
6 Aircraft (RPA) Crews Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMBAT STATUS IDENTIFIER EQUIVALENT FOR RE-**
2 **MOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT CREW.**

3 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act, the Secretaries of the military depart-
5 ments shall establish a status identifier of equivalent merit
6 as a combat status identifier for remotely piloted aircraft
7 (RPA) crew who conduct combat operations.

8 **SEC. 3. STUDY ON COMBAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF RE-**
9 **MOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT CREW.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
12 shall seek to enter into an agreement with a federally
13 funded research and development center to conduct an
14 independent study to identify opportunities to provide
15 more support services to, and greater recognition of, com-
16 bat accomplishments of RPA crew.

17 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study required under sub-
18 section (a) shall—

- 19 (1) explore methods for identifying those mem-
20 bers of a RPA crew who conduct combat operations;
21 (2) review the manner of documentation for
22 RPA crew conducting combat operations;
23 (3) propose decorations and awards for combat
24 operations available to RPA crew;

1 (4) assess whether to award campaign medals
2 for RPA crew conducting combat operations in a
3 named campaign; and

4 (5) examine whether post-separation health (in-
5 cluding mental health) care is available to RPA crew
6 who conduct combat operations.

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