

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5758

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize non-medical counseling services, provided by certain mental health professionals, to military families.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 27, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself and Mr. WITTMAN) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize non-medical counseling services, provided by certain mental health professionals, to military families.

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 “Comforting Our Mili-  
5       tary Families through On-base or Remote Treatment Act”  
6       or the “COMFORT Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NON-MEDICAL COUNSELING SERVICES FOR MILI-**  
2 **TARY FAMILIES.**

3 Section 1781 of title 10, United States Code, is  
4 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
5 section:

6 “(d) NON-MEDICAL COUNSELING SERVICES.—(1) In  
7 carrying out its duties under subsection (b), the Office  
8 may coordinate programs and activities for the provision  
9 of non-medical counseling services to military families  
10 through the Department of Defense Military and Family  
11 Counseling Program.

12 “(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a  
13 mental health professional described in paragraph (3) may  
14 provide non-medical counseling services at any location in  
15 a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or posses-  
16 sion of the United States, without regard to where the  
17 provider or recipient of such services is located, if the pro-  
18 vision of such services is within the scope of the authorized  
19 Federal duties of the provider.

20 “(3) A mental health professional described in this  
21 subsection is a person who is—

22 “(A) a mental health professional who holds a  
23 current license or certification that is—

24 “(i) issued by a State, the District of Co-  
25 lumbia, or a territory or possession of the  
26 United States; and

1                   “(ii) recognized by the Secretary of De-  
2                   fense;

3                   “(B) a member of the uniformed services, a ci-  
4                   vilian employee of the Department of Defense, or a  
5                   contractor designated by the Secretary; and

6                   “(C) performing authorized duties for the De-  
7                   partment of Defense under a program or activity re-  
8                   ferred to in paragraph (1).

9                   “(4) In this subsection, the term ‘non-medical coun-  
10                  seling services’ means mental health care services that are  
11                  non-clinical, short-term and solution focused, and address  
12                  topics related to personal growth, development, and posi-  
13                  tive functioning.”.

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