

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5061

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program to survey access to mental health care under the military health system, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 20, 2021

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Mr. RYAN, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program to survey access to mental health care under the military health system, 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 “Mental Health Stigma
5 in the Military Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO SURVEY ACCESS TO MENTAL**
2 **HEALTH CARE UNDER MILITARY HEALTH**
3 **SYSTEM.**

4 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Beginning not later than Oc-
5 tober 1, 2021, the Secretary of Defense shall carry out
6 a pilot program to survey access to mental health care
7 under the military health system.

8 (b) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program
9 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure that com-
10 mand climate surveys administered to active duty mem-
11 bers of the Armed Forces of not fewer than 20 commands
12 (10 of which shall be deployable) per military department
13 are updated to include questions on access to mental
14 health care under the military health system. Such ques-
15 tions shall address the following:

16 (1) The perceived ability of the respondent to
17 access mental health care under the military health
18 system.

19 (2) Whether the respondent has previously been
20 prohibited from, or advised against, accessing such
21 care.

22 (3) Any overall stigma perceived by the re-
23 spondent with respect to such care.

24 (c) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out the
25 pilot program under subsection (a) shall terminate on July
26 1, 2022.

1 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
2 on which the pilot program under subsection (a) termi-
3 nates, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on
4 Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the
5 Senate a report on the results of the updated surveys ad-
6 ministered pursuant to the pilot program.

7 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “active
8 duty”, “Armed Forces”, and “military departments” have
9 the meanings given those terms in section 101 of title 10,
10 United States Code.

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