

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6712

To direct the Secretary of Defense to develop a strategy to recruit and retain mental health providers, to direct the Secretaries of the military departments to develop medication monitoring programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

Mr. SMUCKER (for himself and Mr. CARBAJAL) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to develop a strategy to recruit and retain mental health providers, to direct the Secretaries of the military departments to develop medication monitoring programs, 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 “Warrior Wellness Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. STRATEGY TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN MENTAL**
6 **HEALTH PROVIDERS.**

7 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit

1 to the congressional defense committees (as defined in sec-
2 tion 101(a)(16) of title 10, United States Code) a report
3 that—

4 (1) describes the shortage of mental health pro-
5 viders of the Department of Defense;

6 (2) explains the reasons for such shortage;

7 (3) explains the effect of such shortage on
8 members of the Armed Forces; and

9 (4) contains a strategy to better recruit and re-
10 tain mental health providers, including with respect
11 to psychiatrists, psychologists, mental health nurse
12 practitioners, licensed social workers, and other li-
13 censed providers of the military health system.

14 **SEC. 3. MONITORING MEDICATION PRESCRIBING PRACTICES FOR THE TREATMENT OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.**

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17 (a) REPORT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
19 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
20 retary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on
21 Armed Services of the House of Representatives and
22 Senate a report on the practices for prescribing
23 medication during the period beginning January 1,
24 2012, and ending December 31, 2017, that were in-
25 consistent with the post-traumatic stress disorder

1 medication guidelines developed by the Department
2 of Defense and the Veterans Health Administration.

3 (2) CONTENTS.—The report under this sub-
4 section shall include the following:

5 (A) A summary of the Army's, the Navy's,
6 and the Air Force's practices for prescribing
7 medication during the period referred to in
8 paragraph (1) that were inconsistent with the
9 post-traumatic stress disorder medication guide-
10 lines developed by the Department of Defense
11 and the Veterans Health Administration.

12 (B) Identification of medical centers serv-
13 ing members of the Armed Forces found to
14 having higher than average incidences of pre-
15 scribing medication during the period referred
16 to in paragraph (1) that were inconsistent with
17 the post-traumatic stress disorder guidelines.

18 (C) A plan for such medical centers to re-
19 duce the prescribing of medications that are in-
20 consistent with the post-traumatic stress dis-
21 order guidelines.

22 (D) A plan for ongoing monitoring of med-
23 ical centers found to have higher than average
24 incidences of prescribing medication that were
25 inconsistent with the post-traumatic stress dis-

1 order guidelines by the Department of Defense
2 and the Veterans Health Administration.

3 (b) MONITORING PROGRAM.—Based on the findings
4 of the report under subsection (a), the Secretaries of the
5 Army, the Navy, and the Air Force shall each establish
6 a monitoring program carried out with respect to such
7 branch of the Armed Forces that shall provide as follows:

8 (1) The monitoring program shall provide for
9 the conduct of periodic reviews, beginning October 1,
10 2019, of medication prescribing practices of its own
11 providers.

12 (2) The monitoring program shall provide for
13 regular reports, beginning October 1, 2020, to the
14 Department of Defense and the Veterans Health Ad-
15 ministration, of the results of the periodic reviews
16 pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection.

17 (3) The monitoring program shall establish in-
18 ternal procedures, not later than October 1, 2020, to
19 address practices for prescribing medication that are
20 inconsistent with the post-traumatic stress disorder
21 medication guidelines developed by the Department
22 of Defense and the Veterans Health Administration.

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