

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2878
OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER-MEEKS OF IOWA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Native VetSuccess at
3 Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. NATIVE VETSUCCESS AT TRIBAL COLLEGES AND
5 UNIVERSITIES PILOT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
8 Veterans Affairs shall carry out a five-year pilot program,
9 to be known as the “Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges
10 and Universities Pilot Program”. Under such pilot pro-
11 gram the Secretary shall—

12 (1) identify three regional Native VetSuccess
13 service areas consisting of at least two participating
14 Tribal colleges or universities;

15 (2) assign to each regional Native VetSuccess
16 service area a VetSuccess on Campus counselor and
17 a full-time Vet Center outreach coordinator, both of
18 whom shall be based on one or more of the partici-

1 pating Tribal colleges or universities in the service
2 area; and

3 (3) provide for eligible students at such partici-
4 pating colleges and universities with all services for
5 which such students would be eligible under the
6 VetSuccess on Campus program of the Department
7 of Veterans Affairs.

8 (b) ELIGIBLE STUDENTS.—For purposes of the pilot
9 program, an eligible student is a student who is a veteran,
10 member of the Armed Forces, or dependent of a veteran
11 or member of the Armed Forces who is eligible for any
12 service or benefit under the VetSuccess on Campus pro-
13 gram of the Department.

14 (c) CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.—In developing
15 the pilot program under this section, the Secretary, acting
16 through the Veteran Readiness and Employment Program
17 of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in coordination
18 with the Office of Tribal Government Relations of the De-
19 partment, shall consult with Indian tribes, Tribal organi-
20 zations, and veterans service organizations regarding each
21 of the following:

22 (1) The design of the pilot program.

23 (2) The selection of the three regional Native
24 VetSuccess service areas and participating Tribal
25 colleges and universities, taking into consideration—

1 (A) the number of eligible students en-
2 rolled in the college or university and in the re-
3 gional service area;

4 (B) the capacity of the colleges and univer-
5 sities in the regional service area to accommo-
6 date a full-time VetSuccess on Campus coun-
7 selor and a full-time Vet Center outreach coor-
8 dinator;

9 (C) the lack of information available at the
10 colleges and universities in the regional service
11 area about and lack of access to benefits and
12 services under the laws administered by the
13 Secretary; and

14 (D) any other factor that the Secretary or
15 the Indian tribes, Tribal organizations, and vet-
16 erans service organizations identify as relevant.

17 (3) The most effective way to provide culturally
18 competent outreach and services to eligible students
19 at Tribal colleges and universities.

20 (d) OUTREACH TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—

21 The Secretary shall provide notice of the pilot program
22 to all Tribal colleges and universities and encourage all
23 Tribal colleges and universities to coordinate with each
24 other to create regional service areas to participate in the
25 pilot program.

1 (e) BRIEFINGS AND REPORTS.—

2 (1) IMPLEMENTATION BRIEFING.—Not later
3 than one year after the date of the enactment of this
4 Act, the Secretary shall provide for the Committee
5 on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Natural
6 Resources of the House of Representatives and the
7 Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee
8 on Indian Affairs of the Senate a briefing on—

9 (A) the design, structure, and objectives of
10 the pilot program; and

11 (B) the three regional Native Vet Success
12 service areas and the Tribal colleges and uni-
13 versities selected for participation in the pilot
14 program and the reason for the selection of
15 such service areas and such colleges and univer-
16 sities.

17 (2) REPORT.—Not later than four years after
18 the date on which the Secretary establishes the pilot
19 program, the Secretary shall submit to such Com-
20 mittees a report on the pilot program. Such report
21 shall include each of the following:

22 (A) The number of eligible students pro-
23 vided services through the pilot program.

24 (B) The types of services that eligible stu-
25 dents received through the pilot program.

1 (C) The graduation rate of eligible stu-
2 dents who received services through the pilot
3 program.

4 (D) The rate of employment within one
5 year of graduation for eligible students who re-
6 ceived services through the pilot program.

7 (E) Feedback from each Tribal college or
8 university that participated in the pilot pro-
9 gram, including on the regional nature of the
10 program.

11 (F) Analysis of the feasibility of expanding
12 a regionally based Native VetSuccess at Tribal
13 Colleges and Universities Program, including an
14 explanation of the challenges of such a model
15 due to issues with distance, communication, and
16 coordination, and to the level of unmet services.

17 (G) A detailed legislative proposal regard-
18 ing a long-term extension of the pilot program,
19 including a budget, if the Secretary determines
20 that such an extension is appropriate.

21 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) The term “Tribal college or university” has
23 the meaning given such term under section 316 of
24 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
25 1059c).

1 (2) The term “tribal organization” has the
2 meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian
3 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act
4 (25 U.S.C. 450b).

5 (3) The term “culturally competent” means
6 considerate of the unique values, customs, traditions,
7 cultures, and languages of Native American vet-
8 erans.

9 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HIGH**
10 **TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM.**

11 Subsection (g) of section 116 of the Harry W.
12 Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017
13 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note), as amended
14 by section 4302 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe,
15 M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement
16 Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–315), is amended to read
17 as follows:

18 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds
19 shall be made available for carrying out the pilot program
20 under this section from funds appropriated to, or other-
21 wise made available to, the Department for the payment
22 of readjustment benefits, in the following amounts for a
23 fiscal year in which the Secretary carries out the pilot pro-
24 gram:

- 1 “(1) For each fiscal year preceding fiscal year
- 2 2022, \$45,000,000.
- 3 “(2) For fiscal year 2022 and each subsequent
- 4 fiscal year, \$90,000,000.”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program, and for other purposes.”.

