

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2798

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2019

Ms. BROWNLEY of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces.

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 “Building Supportive
5 Networks for Women Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR WOMEN**
2 **VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM SERV-**
3 **ICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

4 (a) PERMANENT PROGRAM.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 38,
6 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
7 section 1712C the following new section:

8 **“§ 1712D. Counseling in retreat settings for women**
9 **veterans newly separated**

10 “(a) PROGRAM.—(1) Commencing on January 1,
11 2021, the Secretary shall carry out, through the Readjust-
12 ment Counseling Service of the Veterans Health Adminis-
13 tration, a program to provide reintegration and readjust-
14 ment services described in subsection (b) in group retreat
15 settings to women veterans who are recently separated
16 from service in the Armed Forces after a prolonged de-
17 ployment.

18 “(2) The participation of a veteran in the program
19 under paragraph (1) shall be at the election of the veteran.

20 “(b) COVERED SERVICES.—The services provided to
21 a woman veteran under the program under subsection
22 (a)(1) shall include the following:

23 “(1) Information on reintegration into the fam-
24 ily, employment, and community of the veteran.

25 “(2) Financial counseling.

26 “(3) Occupational counseling.

1 “(4) Information and counseling on stress re-
2 duction.

3 “(5) Information and counseling on conflict res-
4 olution.

5 “(6) Such other information and counseling as
6 the Secretary considers appropriate to assist the vet-
7 eran in reintegration into the family, employment,
8 and community of the veteran.

9 “(c) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than December
10 31, 2022, and each even-numbered year thereafter, the
11 Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Af-
12 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a
13 report on the program under subsection (a)(1).”.

14 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
15 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
16 by inserting after the item relating to section 1712C
17 the following new item:

 “1712D. Counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated.”.

18 (b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Effective December 31,
19 2020, section 203 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omni-
20 bus Health Services Act of 2010 (38 U.S.C. 1712A note)
21 is repealed.

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