

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2724

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for peer support specialists for claimants who are survivors of military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2021

Mr. DELGADO (for himself and Ms. MACE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for peer support specialists for claimants who are survivors of military sexual trauma, 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 “VA Peer Support En-
5 hancement for MST Survivors Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS FOR CLAIMANTS WHO**
2 **ARE SURVIVORS OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAU-**
3 **MA.**

4 (a) PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS FOR CLAIMANTS
5 WHO ARE SURVIVORS OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 51 of title 38,
7 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
8 section 5109B the following new section:

9 **“§ 5109C. Peer support specialists for claimants who**
10 **are survivors of military sexual trauma**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that
12 each claimant who files a claim relating to military sexual
13 trauma is assigned a peer support specialist to provide the
14 claimant with support during the claims process unless the
15 claimant elects not to have a peer support specialist under
16 this section.

17 “(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—A peer support specialist
18 under this section—

19 “(1) shall be trained as a victims advocate; and

20 “(2) may not be responsible for any part of ad-
21 judicating the claim of any claimant to which the
22 specialist is providing support under this section.

23 “(c) MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—In this section,
24 the term ‘military sexual trauma’ has the meaning given
25 such term in section 1165(c) of this title.”.

1 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
2 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
3 by inserting after the item relating to section 5109B
4 the following new item:

 “5109C. Peer support specialists for claimants who are survivors of military sexual trauma.”.

5 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—The second section
6 1164 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section
7 5501 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Vet-
8 erans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020
9 (Public Law 116–315), is redesignated as section 1165
10 (and the table of sections at the beginning of chapter 11
11 of such title is conformed accordingly).

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