

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 4635  
OFFERED BY MR. COFFMAN OF COLORADO**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. PEER SUPPORT COUNSELING PROGRAM FOR**  
2 **WOMEN VETERANS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1720F(j) of title 38,  
4 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the  
5 following new paragraph:

6 “(4)(A) As part of the counseling program under this  
7 subsection, the Secretary shall emphasize appointing peer  
8 support counselors for women veterans. To the degree  
9 practicable, the Secretary shall seek to recruit women peer  
10 support counselors with expertise in—

11 “(i) female gender-specific issues and services;

12 “(ii) the provision of information about services  
13 and benefits provided under laws administered by  
14 the Secretary; or

15 “(iii) employment mentoring.

16 “(B) To the degree practicable, the Secretary shall  
17 emphasize facilitating peer support counseling for women  
18 veterans who are eligible for counseling and services under

1 section 1720D of this title, have post-traumatic stress dis-  
2 order or suffer from another mental health condition, are  
3 homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, or are otherwise  
4 at increased risk of suicide, as determined by the Sec-  
5 retary.

6 “(C) The Secretary shall conduct outreach to inform  
7 women veterans about the program and the assistance  
8 available under this paragraph.

9 “(D) In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary  
10 shall coordinate with such community organizations, State  
11 and local governments, institutions of higher education,  
12 chambers of commerce, local business organizations, orga-  
13 nizations that provide legal assistance, and other organiza-  
14 tions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

15 “(E) In carrying out this paragraph, the Secretary  
16 shall provide adequate training for peer support coun-  
17 selors, including training carried out under the national  
18 program of training required by section 304(c) of the  
19 Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of  
20 2010 (38 U.S.C. 1712A note).”.

21 (b) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
22 shall carry out paragraph (4) of section 1720F(j) of title  
23 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), using  
24 funds otherwise made available to the Secretary. No addi-

1 tional funds are authorized to be appropriated by reason  
2 of such paragraph.

3 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than two  
4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
5 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees  
6 on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-  
7 resentatives a report on the peer support counseling pro-  
8 gram under section 1720F(j) of title 38, United States  
9 Code, as amended by this section. Such report shall in-  
10 clude—

11 (1) the number of peer support counselors in  
12 the program;

13 (2) an assessment of the effectiveness of the  
14 program; and

15 (3) a description of the oversight of the pro-  
16 gram.

