

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5029

To amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to members of the families of members or veterans of the Armed Forces who died by suicide, and other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 13, 2021

Mr. ROUZER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to members of the families of members or veterans of the Armed Forces who died by suicide, and 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 “Expanding the Fami-
5 lies of Veterans Access to Mental Health Services Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.**

2 Section 1712A(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code,
3 is amended—

4 (1) in subparagraph (A)(ii)—

5 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “and”;

6 (B) in subclause (II), by striking the pe-
7 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(III) in the case of a veteran or
10 member who died by suicide, to the
11 degree that counseling furnished to
12 such individual is found to aid in cop-
13 ing with the effects of such suicide.”;

14 (2) in subparagraph (B)(i)(II)—

15 (A) in item (aa), by striking “or”;

16 (B) in item (bb), by striking the period at
17 the end and inserting “; or”; and

18 (C) by adding at the end the following;

19 “(cc) coping with the effects
20 of a suicide described in sub-
21 clause (III) of such act.”; and

22 (3) in subparagraph (C)(vii)—

23 (A) in subclause (I), by striking “or” at
24 the end;

25 (B) in subclause (II), by striking the pe-
26 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

1 (C) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(III) veteran or member of the
3 Armed Forces who died by suicide.”.

4 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5 The amendments made by section 2 shall apply with
6 respect to family members of a member or veteran who
7 died by suicide before, on, or after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act.

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