

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend titles 10 and 37, United States Code, to establish special pay and allowances for members of the Armed Forces assigned to cold weather operations, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To amend titles 10 and 37, United States Code, to establish special pay and allowances for members of the Armed Forces assigned to cold weather operations, 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 “Don Young Arctic  
5 Warrior Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SPECIAL PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR CERTAIN**  
2 **MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ASSIGNED**  
3 **TO COLD WEATHER OPERATIONS.**

4 (a) SPECIAL PAY.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter II of chap-  
6 ter 5 of title 37, United States Code, is amended by  
7 inserting after section 336 the following new section:

8 **“§ 337. Special pay: members of the armed forces as-**  
9 **signed to cold weather operations**

10 “(a) SPECIAL PAY AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary  
11 concerned shall pay monthly special pay (to be known as  
12 ‘arctic pay’) to a member of the armed forces—

13 “(1) assigned to perform cold weather oper-  
14 ations; or

15 “(2) required to maintain proficiency through  
16 frequent operations in cold weather.

17 “(b) AMOUNT OF PAY.—Special pay under this sec-  
18 tion shall equal \$300 per month.

19 “(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PAY OR ALLOW-  
20 ANCES.—Special pay under this section is in addition to  
21 any other pay or allowance to which a member is entitled.

22 “(d) SUNSET.—No special pay may be paid under  
23 this section after December 31, 2023.”.

24 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
25 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended

1 by inserting after the item relating to section 336  
2 the following:

“337. Special pay: members of the armed forces assigned to cold weather operations.”.

3 (3) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense  
4 shall prescribe regulations for the payment of arctic  
5 pay under section 337 of such title, as added by  
6 paragraph (1).

7 (b) ALLOWANCE FOR BROADBAND.—

8 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 7 of title 37,  
9 United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
10 section 425 the following new section:

11 **“§ 426. Allowance for broadband for certain members**  
12 **of the armed forces assigned to perma-**  
13 **nent duty stations in Alaska**

14 “(a) ALLOWANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary con-  
15 cerned shall pay, to a member of the armed forces in the  
16 grade of E-5 or below who is assigned to a permanent  
17 duty station in Alaska, a monthly allowance for  
18 broadband.

19 “(b) AMOUNT.—The monthly allowance to a member  
20 under this section shall be—

21 “(1) \$125 during calendar year 2023; and

22 “(2) in subsequent calendar years, an amount  
23 determined by the Secretary of Defense based on the  
24 difference between the average costs of unlimited

1 broadband plans in Alaska and in the continental  
2 United States.

3 “(c) SUNSET.—No allowance may be paid under this  
4 section after December 31, 2028.”.

5 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
6 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
7 by inserting after the item relating to section 425  
8 the following:

“426. Allowance for broadband for certain members of the Armed Forces as-  
signed to permanent duty stations in Alaska.”.

9 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 426 of such  
10 title, as added by paragraph (1), shall take effect on  
11 the day the Secretary of Defense prescribes regula-  
12 tions under paragraph (4).

13 (4) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days  
14 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
15 retary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to carry  
16 out section 426 of such title, as added by paragraph  
17 (1).

18 (5) REPORT.—Not later than December 31,  
19 2027, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the  
20 Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and  
21 the House of Representatives a report containing—

22 (A) the evaluation of the Secretary of the  
23 allowance under section 426 of such title, as  
24 added by paragraph (1); and

1           (B) any recommendation of the Secretary  
2           regarding whether such allowance should be  
3           amended, extended, or made permanent.

4           (c) TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION ALLOWANCE.—

5           (1) ENTITLEMENT.—Not later than 90 days  
6           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
7           retary of Defense shall prescribe regulations and  
8           guidance that entitle a member of the Armed Forces  
9           in the grade of E-5 or below who is assigned to a  
10          permanent duty station in Alaska to a one-time al-  
11          lowance for air travel for the member and depend-  
12          ents of such member.

13          (2) AMOUNTS.—

14           (A) TRAVEL TO PERMANENT RESI-  
15           DENCE.—If the air travel for which an allow-  
16           ance under paragraph (1) is paid to a member  
17           is to the permanent residence of the member,  
18           the amount of the allowance shall equal the  
19           total costs of such air travel.

20           (B) TRAVEL TO OTHER DESTINATIONS.—

21           If the air travel for which an allowance under  
22           paragraph (1) is paid to a member is to a des-  
23           tination in the United States other than the  
24           permanent residence of the member, the

1 amount of the allowance shall be equal to the  
2 lesser of the following:

3 (i) The rate for such air travel under  
4 the City Pair Program of the General  
5 Services Administration (or successor pro-  
6 gram) in effect at the time of such air  
7 travel.

8 (ii) The actual costs of such air travel.

9 (3) **TIMING.**—Air travel for which an allowance  
10 under paragraph (1) is paid to a member may not  
11 commence later than 30 months after the member is  
12 assigned to a permanent duty station in Alaska.

13 (4) **ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION.**—The Sec-  
14 retary concerned (as defined in section 101 of title  
15 37, United States Code) may authorize an additional  
16 allowance for a member who has used the allowance  
17 to which such member is entitled under paragraph  
18 (1).

19 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM ON CAR SHARING ON REMOTE**  
20 **MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.**

21 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 180 days after  
22 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
23 Defense shall seek to carry out a pilot program to allow  
24 car sharing at military installations in Alaska.

1 (b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—To carry out a pilot pro-  
2 gram under this section, the Secretary shall take steps in-  
3 cluding the following:

4 (1) Seek to enter into an agreement with an en-  
5 tity that—

6 (A) provides car sharing services; and

7 (B) is capable of serving all military instal-  
8 lations in Alaska.

9 (2) Provide to members assigned to such instal-  
10 lations the resources the Secretary determines nec-  
11 essary to participate in such pilot program.

12 (3) Promote such pilot program to such mem-  
13 bers.

14 (c) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 90  
15 days after the date the Secretary enters into an agreement  
16 under subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the  
17 congressional defense committees a plan to carry out the  
18 pilot program.

19 (d) DURATION.—A pilot program under this section  
20 shall terminate two years after the Secretary commences  
21 such pilot program.

22 (e) REPORT.—Upon the termination of a pilot pro-  
23 gram under this section, the Secretary of Defense shall  
24 submit to the congressional defense committees a report  
25 containing the following information:

1           (1) The number of individuals who used car  
2 sharing services offered pursuant to the pilot pro-  
3 gram.

4           (2) The cost to the United States of the pilot  
5 program.

6           (3) An analysis of the effect of the pilot pro-  
7 gram on mental health and community connected-  
8 ness of members described in subsection (b)(2).

9           (4) Other information the Secretary determines  
10 appropriate.

11 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12           (1) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.—  
13 The term “congressional defense committees” has  
14 the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of  
15 title 10, United States Code.

16           (2) MILITARY INSTALLATION.—The term “mili-  
17 tary installation” has the meaning given that term  
18 in section 2801 of title 10, United States Code.

19 **SEC. 4. CLARIFICATION REGARDING LICENSURE REQUIRE-**  
20 **MENTS FOR PROVISION OF NON-MEDICAL**  
21 **COUNSELING SERVICES BY CERTAIN**  
22 **HEALTH-CARE PROFESSIONALS.**

23 Section 1094 of title 10, United States Code is  
24 amended—



1 (1) in subsection (d)(1), by inserting “, includ-  
2 ing by providing non-medical counseling services in  
3 connection with such practice,” after “the health  
4 profession or professions of the health-care profes-  
5 sional”; and

6 (2) in subsection (e), by adding at the end the  
7 following new paragraph:

8 “(3) The term ‘non-medical counseling’—

9 “(A) means short-term, non-therapeutic  
10 counseling that is not an appropriate substitute  
11 for individuals in need of clinical therapy; and

12 “(B) includes counseling that is supportive  
13 in nature and addresses issues such as general  
14 conditions of living, life skills, improving rela-  
15 tionships at home and at work, stress manage-  
16 ment, adjustment issues (such as those related  
17 to returning from a deployment), marital prob-  
18 lems, parenting, and grief and loss.”.

19 **SEC. 5. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO BEHAVIORAL**  
20 **HEALTH CARE AVAILABLE UNDER MILITARY**  
21 **HEALTH SYSTEM.**

22 (a) EXPANSION OF CERTAIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
23 PROGRAMS AT THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY  
24 OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES.—

1           (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF GRADUATE PRO-  
2           GRAMS.—The Secretary of Defense shall establish  
3           graduate degree-granting programs in counseling  
4           and social work at the Uniformed Services Univer-  
5           sity of the Health Sciences.

6           (2) EXPANSION OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY  
7           GRADUATE PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Defense  
8           shall take such steps as may be necessary to expand  
9           the clinical psychology graduate program of the Uni-  
10          formed Services University of the Health Sciences.

11          (3) POST-AWARD EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATION.—

12                (A) AGREEMENT WITH SECRETARY.—Sub-  
13                ject to subparagraph (B), as a condition of en-  
14                rolling in a degree-granting program in clinical  
15                psychology, social work, or counseling at the  
16                Uniformed Services University of the Health  
17                Sciences, a civilian student shall enter into an  
18                agreement with the Secretary of Defense pursu-  
19                ant to which the student agrees that, if the stu-  
20                dent does not become a member of a uniformed  
21                service upon graduating such program, the stu-  
22                dent shall work on a full-time basis as a covered  
23                civilian behavioral health provider for a period  
24                that is at least equivalent to the period during

1           which the student was enrolled in such pro-  
2           gram.

3                   (B) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An  
4           agreement entered into pursuant to subpara-  
5           graph (A) may include such other terms and  
6           conditions as the Secretary of Defense may de-  
7           termine necessary to protect the interests of the  
8           United States or otherwise appropriate for pur-  
9           poses of this section, including terms and condi-  
10          tions providing for limited exceptions from the  
11          employment obligation specified in such sub-  
12          paragraph.

13                   (C) REPAYMENT.—

14                   (i) IN GENERAL.—A civilian graduate  
15          who does not complete the employment ob-  
16          ligation required under the agreement en-  
17          tered into pursuant to subparagraph (A)  
18          shall repay to the Secretary of Defense a  
19          prorated portion of the cost of attendance  
20          in the program described in such subpara-  
21          graph that are paid by the Secretary on  
22          behalf of the civilian graduate.

23                   (ii) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—  
24          The amount of any repayment required

1 under clause (i) shall be determined by the  
2 Secretary.

3 (D) APPLICABILITY.—This paragraph shall  
4 apply to civilian students who enroll in the first  
5 year of a degree-granting program in clinical  
6 psychology, social work, or counseling at the  
7 Uniformed Services University of the Health  
8 Sciences on or after the date of the enactment  
9 of this Act.

10 (4) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
13 Secretary shall submit to the congressional de-  
14 fense committees a plan for the implementation  
15 of this subsection.

16 (B) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by  
17 subparagraph (A) shall include—

18 (i) a determination as to the resources  
19 for personnel and facilities required for the  
20 implementation of this subsection;

21 (ii) estimated timelines for such im-  
22 plementation; and

23 (iii) a projection of the number of  
24 graduates from the programs specified in

1 paragraph (1) upon the completion of such  
2 implementation.

3 (b) SCHOLARSHIP-FOR-SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CI-  
4 VILIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than  
6 two years after the date of the enactment of this  
7 Act, the Secretary of Defense shall carry out a pro-  
8 gram under which—

9 (A) the Secretary may provide—

10 (i) direct grants to cover tuition, fees,  
11 living expenses, and any other cost of at-  
12 tendance at an institution of higher edu-  
13 cation to an individual enrolled in a pro-  
14 gram of study leading to a graduate degree  
15 in clinical psychology, social work, coun-  
16 seling, or a related field (as determined by  
17 the Secretary); and

18 (ii) student loan repayment assistance  
19 to a credentialed behavioral health provider  
20 who has a graduate degree in clinical psy-  
21 chology, social work, counseling, or a re-  
22 lated field (as determined by the Sec-  
23 retary); and

24 (B) in exchange for such assistance, the  
25 recipient shall commit to work as a covered ci-

1           vilian behavioral health provider in accordance  
2           with paragraph (2).

3           (2)    POST-AWARD    EMPLOYMENT    OBLIGA-  
4           TIONS.—

5                   (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
6                   graph (B), as a condition of receiving assistance  
7                   under paragraph (1), the recipient of such as-  
8                   sistance shall enter into an agreement with the  
9                   Secretary of Defense pursuant to which the re-  
10                  cipient agrees to work on a full-time basis as a  
11                  covered civilian behavioral health provider for a  
12                  period that is at least equivalent to the period  
13                  during which the recipient received assistance  
14                  under such paragraph.

15                  (B) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An  
16                  agreement entered into pursuant to subpara-  
17                  graph (A) may include such other terms and  
18                  conditions as the Secretary of Defense may de-  
19                  termine necessary to protect the interests of the  
20                  United States or otherwise appropriate for pur-  
21                  poses of this section, including terms and condi-  
22                  tions providing for limited exceptions from the  
23                  post-award employment obligation specified in  
24                  such subparagraph.

25                  (3) REPAYMENT.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—An individual who re-  
2 ceives assistance under paragraph (1) and does  
3 not complete the employment obligation re-  
4 quired under the agreement entered into pursu-  
5 ant to paragraph (2) shall repay to the Sec-  
6 retary of Defense a prorated portion of the fi-  
7 nancial assistance received by the individual  
8 under paragraph (1).

9           (B) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—The  
10 amount of any repayment required under sub-  
11 paragraph (A) shall be determined by the Sec-  
12 retary.

13           (4) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than  
14 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
15 the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the con-  
16 gressional defense committees a plan for the imple-  
17 mentation of this subsection.

18           (c) INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS FOR CIVILIAN BEHAV-  
19 IORAL HEALTH.—

20           (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAMS.—The Sec-  
21 retary of Defense shall establish paid pre-doctoral  
22 and post-doctoral internship programs for the pur-  
23 pose of training clinical psychologists to work as cov-  
24 ered civilian behavioral health providers.

25           (2) EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATION.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
2 graph (B), as a condition of participating in an  
3 internship program under paragraph (1), an in-  
4 dividual shall enter into an agreement with the  
5 Secretary of Defense pursuant to which the in-  
6 dividual agrees to work on a full-time basis as  
7 a covered civilian behavioral health provider for  
8 a period that is at least equivalent to the period  
9 of participation by the individual in such intern-  
10 ship program.

11           (B) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An  
12 agreement entered into pursuant to subpara-  
13 graph (A) may include such other terms and  
14 conditions as the Secretary of Defense may de-  
15 termine necessary to protect the interests of the  
16 United States or otherwise appropriate for pur-  
17 poses of this section, including terms and condi-  
18 tions providing for limited exceptions from the  
19 employment obligation specified in such sub-  
20 paragraph.

21           (3) REPAYMENT.—

22           (A) IN GENERAL.—An individual who par-  
23 ticipates in an internship program under para-  
24 graph (1) and does not complete the employ-  
25 ment obligation required under the agreement



1 entered into pursuant to paragraph (2) shall  
2 repay to the Secretary of Defense a prorated  
3 portion of the cost of administering such pro-  
4 gram with respect to such individual and of any  
5 payment received by the individual under such  
6 program.

7 (B) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—The  
8 amount of any repayment required under sub-  
9 paragraph (A) shall be determined by the Sec-  
10 retary.

11 (4) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than  
12 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
13 the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the con-  
14 gressional defense committees a plan for the imple-  
15 mentation of this subsection.

16 (d) RETENTION BONUSES FOR CERTAIN BEHAV-  
17 IORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS.—

18 (1) RETENTION BONUS.—From amounts avail-  
19 able in the Department of Defense Civilian Work-  
20 force Incentive Fund established under section  
21 9902(a)(3) of title 5, United States Code, the Sec-  
22 retary of Defense may pay an incentive payment of  
23 not more than \$50,000 annually per employee to  
24 employees described in paragraph (2) for the pur-  
25 poses of retaining such employees.

1           (2) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS OF BONUS.—Em-  
2           ployees described in this paragraph are covered civil-  
3           ian behavioral health providers in the following pro-  
4           fessions:

5                   (A) Clinical psychologists.

6                   (B) Social workers.

7                   (C) Counselors.

8           (e) REPORT ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORK-  
9           FORCE.—

10           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
11           the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
12           of Defense shall conduct an analysis of the behav-  
13           ioral health workforce under the direct care compo-  
14           nent of the TRICARE program and submit to the  
15           congressional defense committees a report containing  
16           the results of such analysis.

17           (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under  
18           paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to the  
19           workforce specified in such paragraph, the following:

20                   (A) The number of positions authorized for  
21                   military behavioral health providers within such  
22                   workforce, and the number of such positions  
23                   filled, disaggregated by the professions de-  
24                   scribed in paragraph (3).

1           (B) The number of positions authorized for  
2 civilian behavioral health providers within such  
3 workforce, and the number of such positions  
4 filled, disaggregated by the professions de-  
5 scribed in paragraph (3).

6           (C) For each military department, the  
7 ratio of military behavioral health providers as-  
8 signed to military medical treatment facilities  
9 compared to civilian behavioral health providers  
10 so assigned, disaggregated by the professions  
11 described in paragraph (3).

12           (D) For each military department, the  
13 number of military behavioral health providers  
14 authorized to be embedded within an oper-  
15 ational unit, and the number of such positions  
16 filled, disaggregated by the professions de-  
17 scribed in paragraph (3).

18           (E) Data on the historical demand for be-  
19 havioral health services by members of the  
20 Armed Forces.

21           (F) An estimate of the number of health  
22 care providers necessary to meet the demand by  
23 such members for behavioral health services  
24 under the direct care component of the

1 TRICARE program, disaggregated by provider  
2 type.

3 (G) An identification of any shortfall be-  
4 tween the estimated number under subpara-  
5 graph (F) and the total number of positions for  
6 behavioral health providers filled within such  
7 workforce.

8 (H) Such other information as the Sec-  
9 retary may determine appropriate.

10 (3) PROVIDER TYPES.—The professions de-  
11 scribed in this paragraph are as follows:

12 (A) Clinical psychologists.

13 (B) Social workers.

14 (C) Counselors.

15 (D) Such other professions as the Sec-  
16 retary may determine appropriate.

17 (f) PLAN TO ADDRESS SHORTFALLS IN BEHAVIORAL  
18 HEALTH WORKFORCE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
21 retary of Defense shall submit to the congressional  
22 defense committees a plan to address any shortfall  
23 of the behavioral health workforce identified under  
24 subsection (e)(2)(G).

1           (2) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by para-  
2 graph (1) shall—

3           (A) address, with respect to any shortfall  
4 of military behavioral health providers (ad-  
5 dressed separately with respect to such pro-  
6 viders assigned to military medical treatment  
7 facilities and such providers assigned to be em-  
8 bedded within operational units)—

9           (i) recruitment;

10           (ii) accession;

11           (iii) retention;

12           (iv) special pay and other aspects of  
13 compensation;

14           (v) workload;

15           (vi) the role of the Uniformed Services  
16 University of the Health Sciences and the  
17 Armed Forces Health Professions Scholar-  
18 ship Program under chapter 105 of title  
19 10, United States Code;

20           (vii) any additional authorities or re-  
21 sources necessary for the Secretary to in-  
22 crease the number of such providers; and

23           (viii) such other considerations as the  
24 Secretary may consider appropriate;

- 1 (B) address, with respect to any shortfall  
2 of civilian behavioral health providers—
- 3 (i) recruitment;
  - 4 (ii) hiring;
  - 5 (iii) retention;
  - 6 (iv) pay and benefits;
  - 7 (v) workload;
  - 8 (vi) educational scholarship programs;
  - 9 (vii) any additional authorities or re-  
10 sources necessary for the Secretary to in-  
11 crease the number of such providers; and
  - 12 (viii) such other considerations as the  
13 Secretary may consider appropriate;
- 14 (C) recommend whether the number of  
15 military behavioral health providers in each  
16 military department should be increased, and if  
17 so, by how many;
- 18 (D) include a plan to expand access to be-  
19 havioral health services under the military  
20 health system through the use of telehealth;
- 21 (E) include a plan by each military depart-  
22 ment to allocate additional uniformed mental  
23 health providers in military medical treatment  
24 facilities at remote installations; and

1 (F) assess the feasibility of hiring civilian  
2 mental health providers at remote installations  
3 to augment the provision of mental health care  
4 services by uniformed mental health providers.

5 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) ARMED FORCES; CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE  
7 COMMITTEES.—The terms “Armed Forces” and  
8 “congressional defense committees” have the mean-  
9 ings given those terms in section 101 of title 10,  
10 United States Code.

11 (2) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.—The term “behav-  
12 ioral health” includes psychiatry, clinical psychology,  
13 social work, counseling, and related fields.

14 (3) CIVILIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRO-  
15 VIDER.—The term “civilian behavioral health pro-  
16 vider” means a behavioral health provider who is a  
17 civilian employee of the Department of Defense.

18 (4) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—The term “cost of  
19 attendance” has the meaning given that term in sec-  
20 tion 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
21 U.S.C. 1087ll).

22 (5) COVERED CIVILIAN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
23 PROVIDER.—The term “covered civilian behavioral  
24 health provider” means a civilian behavioral health  
25 provider whose employment by the Secretary of De-

1 fense involves the provision of behavioral health serv-  
2 ices at a military medical treatment facility.

3 (6) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
4 term “institution of higher education” has the  
5 meaning given that term in section 101 of the High-  
6 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

7 (7) MILITARY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRO-  
8 VIDER.—The term “military behavioral health pro-  
9 vider” means a behavioral health provider who is a  
10 member of the Armed Forces.

11 (8) TRICARE PROGRAM.—The term  
12 “TRICARE program” has the meaning given that  
13 term in section 1072(7) of title 10, United States  
14 Code.

15 (9) UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE  
16 HEALTH SCIENCES.—The term “Uniformed Services  
17 University of the Health Sciences” means the uni-  
18 versity established under section 2112 of title 10,  
19 United States Code.

20 **SEC. 6. PILOT PROGRAM ON SAFE STORAGE OF PERSON-**  
21 **ALLY OWNED FIREARMS.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense  
23 shall establish a pilot program to promote the safe storage  
24 of personally owned firearms.



1           (b) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Participation by  
2 members of the Armed Forces in the pilot program under  
3 subsection (a) shall be on a voluntary basis.

4           (c) ELEMENTS.—Under the pilot program under sub-  
5 section (a), the Secretary of Defense shall furnish to mem-  
6 bers of the Armed Forces who are participating in the  
7 pilot program at military installations selected under sub-  
8 section (e) locking devices and firearm safes for the pur-  
9 pose of securing personally owned firearms when not in  
10 use (including by directly providing, subsidizing, or other-  
11 wise making available such devices or safes).

12          (d) PLAN.—Not later than one year after the date  
13 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense  
14 shall submit to the congressional defense committees a  
15 plan for the implementation of the pilot program under  
16 subsection (a).

17          (e) SELECTION OF INSTALLATIONS.—Not later than  
18 two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
19 Secretary of Defense shall select not fewer than five mili-  
20 tary installations at which to carry out the pilot program  
21 under subsection (a).

22          (f) DURATION.—The duration of the pilot program  
23 under subsection (a) shall be for a period of six years.

24          (g) REPORT.—Upon the termination of the pilot pro-  
25 gram under subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall

1 submit to the congressional defense committees a report  
2 containing the following information:

3           (1) The number and type of locking devices and  
4           firearm safes furnished to members of the Armed  
5           Forces under the pilot program.

6           (2) The cost of carrying out the pilot program.

7           (3) An analysis of the effect of the pilot pro-  
8           gram on suicide prevention.

9           (4) Such other information as the Secretary  
10          may determine appropriate, which shall exclude any  
11          personally identifiable information about partici-  
12          pants in the pilot program.

13          (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms  
14          “Armed Forces” and “congressional defense committees”  
15          have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of title  
16          10, United States Code.