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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to veterans and members of the Armed Forces using certain educational assistance benefits.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to veterans and members of the Armed Forces using certain educational assistance benefits.

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 “Student Veterans
5 Counseling Centers Eligibility Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF VET CENTER SERVICES.**

2 (a) VETERANS AND MEMBERS USING EDUCATIONAL
3 ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.—Section 1712A of title 38,
4 United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) by striking “clauses (i) through (vi)” both
6 places it appears and inserting “clauses (i) through
7 (vii)”;

8 (2) by striking “in clause (vii)” both places it
9 appears and inserting “in clause (viii)”;

10 (3) in subsection (a)(1)(C)—

11 (A) by redesignating clause (vii) as clause
12 (viii); and

13 (B) by inserting after clause (vi) the fol-
14 lowing new clause:

15 “(vii) Any veteran or member of the Armed
16 Forces pursuing a course of education using covered
17 educational assistance benefits.”; and

18 (4) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the
19 following new paragraph:

20 “(6) The term ‘covered educational assistance
21 benefits’ means educational assistance benefits pro-
22 vided pursuant to—

23 “(A) chapters 30, 31, 32, or 33 of this
24 title;

25 “(B) chapters 1606 or 1607 of title 10;

1 “(C) section 116 of the Harry W. Colmery
2 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017
3 (Public Law 115–48; 38 U.S.C. 3001 note); or
4 “(D) section 8006 of the American Rescue
5 Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2; 38
6 U.S.C. 3001 note prec.).”.

7 (b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
9 of the United States shall submit to the Committees on
10 Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the
11 Senate a report assessing—

12 (1) the mental health needs of veterans pur-
13 suing a course of education using covered edu-
14 cational assistance benefits (as defined in section
15 1712A(h)(6) of title 38, United States Code, as
16 added by subsection (a)); and

17 (2) the efforts of the Department of Veterans
18 Affairs to address such mental health needs.