

HI 113 CONGRESS SIMULATION 2010

Committee: Energy and Commerce

Principal Author: Rebecca Mardirosian

Bill No: 113.29

Section: 06

Title of Bill: Mental Health Care for Veterans Act

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS

1 PREAMBLE- Whereas there is not access to quality mental health care for PTSD and
2 depression in all parts of the country, and there is more than 1.7 million troops and veterans
3 of the Iraqi/Afghanistan conflict, and the government claims no legal obligation to provide
4 mental health treatment for veterans, and many returning veterans will not have access to
5 direct income or health insurance, and the GI Bill does not offer mental health treatment.

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7 SECTION I: Each state shall establish a minimum of one mental health care facility which
8 specializes in the treatment of PTSD and depression. Multiple facilities shall be placed in
9 larger states such as California and Texas. The number of facilities will be based on the
10 population of the state. These facilities will primarily focus on helping veterans

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12 SECTION II: The federal government shall provide 25% financial aid for all veterans
13 seeking treatment for mental health issues. This will allow veterans the freedom to seek
14 mental health treatment without worrying about the financial burden.

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16 SECTION III: The GI Bill shall add the benefit of free mental health care for one year after
17 service. Meaning that no veteran shall be charged for any examinations or treatment for
18 mental health for their first year back to civilian life. This benefit shall be separate from the
19 health care benefits from the VA as this focuses primarily on mental health.

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21 SECTION IV: The federal government shall provide a 10% tuition break to those students
22 studying to specialize in the treatment of PTSD. This will encourage aspiring psychologists
23 to specialize in treatment of PTSD. Ensuring that there are enough psychologists to both
24 provide help to the large number of living veterans, and fill newly established PTSD
25 treatment facilities.

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27 ENACTMENT CLAUS: This bill will come into effect 360 days after passage.

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