

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1284

To amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the suicide prevention program of the Department of Defense by specifically requiring suicide prevention training during recruit basic training, preseparation counseling, and mental health assessments.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 31, 2011

Mr. BACA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the suicide prevention program of the Department of Defense by specifically requiring suicide prevention training during recruit basic training, preseparation counseling, and mental health assessments.

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 “Armed Forces Suicide
5 Prevention Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENHANCEMENT OF SUICIDE PREVENTION PRO-**
2 **GRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.**

3 (a) **ENHANCEMENT.**—The Secretary of Defense shall
4 take appropriate actions to enhance the suicide prevention
5 program of the Department of Defense through the provi-
6 sion of suicide prevention information and resources to
7 members of the Armed Forces from their initial enlistment
8 or appointment through their final retirement or separa-
9 tion.

10 (b) **COOPERATIVE EFFORT.**—The Secretary of De-
11 fense shall develop suicide prevention information and re-
12 sources in consultation with—

13 (1) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Na-
14 tional Institute of Mental Health, and the Substance
15 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of
16 the Department of Health and Human Services; and

17 (2) to the extent appropriate, institutions of
18 higher education and other public and private enti-
19 ties, including international entities, with expertise
20 regarding suicide prevention.

21 **SEC. 3. SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING COMPONENT DUR-**
22 **ING RECRUIT BASIC TRAINING.**

23 (a) **ARMY.**—

24 (1) **TRAINING REQUIRED.**—Chapter 401 of title
25 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting
26 after section 4320 the following new section:

1 **“§ 4320a. Recruit basic training: availability of sui-**
2 **cide prevention resources**

3 “(a) AVAILABILITY.—As part of the initial entry
4 training program of the Army that constitutes the basic
5 training of new recruits, the Secretary of the Army shall
6 include a training component on suicide prevention.

7 “(b) ELEMENTS.—The suicide prevention training
8 component shall include the following:

9 “(1) Methods for recognizing risk factors for
10 suicide.

11 “(2) Protocols for responding to crisis situa-
12 tions involving members who may be at high risk for
13 suicide.

14 “(3) Information about suicide prevention serv-
15 ices available to members, including toll-free hotlines
16 and Internet resources.

17 “(4) Information on best practices for suicide
18 prevention.”.

19 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
20 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
21 by inserting after the item relating to section 4320
22 the following new item:

“4320a. Recruit basic training: availability of suicide prevention resources.”.

23 (b) NAVY AND MARINE CORPS.—

1 (1) TRAINING REQUIRED.—Chapter 602 of
2 such title is amended by adding at the end the fol-
3 lowing new section:

4 **“§ 6933. Recruit basic training: availability of suicide**
5 **prevention resources**

6 “(a) AVAILABILITY.—As part of the initial entry
7 training program of the Navy and the Marine Corps that
8 constitutes the basic training of new recruits, the Sec-
9 retary of the Navy shall include a training component on
10 suicide prevention.

11 “(b) ELEMENTS.—The suicide prevention training
12 component shall include the following:

13 “(1) Methods for recognizing risk factors for
14 suicide.

15 “(2) Protocols for responding to crisis situa-
16 tions involving members who may be at high risk for
17 suicide.

18 “(3) Information about suicide prevention serv-
19 ices available to members, including toll-free hotlines
20 and Internet resources.

21 “(4) Information on best practices for suicide
22 prevention.”.

23 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
24 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended
25 by adding at the end the following new item:

“602. Recruit basic training: availability of suicide prevention resources.”.

1 (c) AIR FORCE.—

2 (1) TRAINING REQUIRED.—Chapter 901 of
3 such title is amended by inserting after section 9320
4 the following new section:

5 **“§ 9320a. Recruit basic training: availability of sui-**
6 **cide prevention resources**

7 “(a) AVAILABILITY.—As part of the initial entry
8 training program of the Air Force that constitutes the
9 basic training of new recruits, the Secretary of the Air
10 Force shall include a training component on suicide pre-
11 vention.

12 “(b) ELEMENTS.—The suicide prevention training
13 component shall include the following:

14 “(1) Methods for recognizing risk factors for
15 suicide.

16 “(2) Protocols for responding to crisis situa-
17 tions involving members who may be at high risk for
18 suicide.

19 “(3) Information about suicide prevention serv-
20 ices available to members, including toll-free hotlines
21 and Internet resources.

22 “(4) Information on best practices for suicide
23 prevention.”.

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 4320
 2 the following new item:

“4320a. Recruit basic training: availability of suicide prevention resources.”.

3 **SEC. 4. NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO SUI-**
 4 **CIDE PREVENTION RESOURCES DURING**
 5 **PRESEPARATION COUNSELING.**

6 Section 1142(b)(8) of title 10, United States Code,
 7 is amended by inserting before the period the following:
 8 “and the availability to the member and the member’s
 9 family of the suicide prevention resources described in sec-
 10 tion 1177(d) of this title”.

11 **SEC. 5. NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO SUI-**
 12 **CIDE PREVENTION RESOURCES DURING**
 13 **MEDICAL EXAMINATION TO EVALUATE A DI-**
 14 **AGNOSIS OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DIS-**
 15 **ORDER OR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.**

16 Section 1177 of title 10, United States Code, is
 17 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
 18 section:

19 “(d) AVAILABILITY OF SUICIDE PREVENTION RE-
 20 SOURCES.—(1) The medical examination required by sub-
 21 section (a) shall include the provision of information to
 22 the member regarding the availability of the suicide pre-
 23 vention resources described in paragraph (2) and the right
 24 of the member to access such resources.

1 “(2) The suicide prevention resources available under
2 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

3 “(A) Methods for recognizing risk factors for
4 suicide.

5 “(B) Protocols for responding to crisis situa-
6 tions involving members who may be at high risk for
7 suicide.

8 “(C) Information about suicide prevention serv-
9 ices available to members, including toll-free hotlines
10 and Internet resources.

11 “(D) Information on best practices for suicide
12 prevention.”.

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