

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4513

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to State and local entities to carry out peer-to-peer mental health programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2016

Mr. ZELDIN (for himself and Miss RICE of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to State and local entities to carry out peer-to-peer mental health programs.

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. PFC JOSEPH P. DWYER VETERAN PEER SUP-**
4 **PORT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
6 shall establish a grant program to be known as the “PFC
7 Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer Support Program” under
8 which the Secretary shall make grants to eligible entities
9 for the purpose of establishing peer-to-peer mental health
10 programs for veterans.

1 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section,
2 the term “eligible entity” means any of the following enti-
3 ties that submit to the Secretary an application containing
4 such information and assurances as the Secretary may re-
5 quire:

6 (1) A nonprofit organization having historically
7 served veterans’ mental health needs.

8 (2) A congressionally chartered veteran service
9 organization.

10 (3) A State, local, or tribal veteran service
11 agency, director, or commissioner.

12 (c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The recipient of a grant
13 under this section shall receive a grant in an amount that
14 does not exceed \$250,000.

15 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—The recipient of a grant under
16 this section shall use the grant funds to—

17 (1) carry out a program that meets the stand-
18 ards developed under subsection (e);

19 (2) hire veterans to serve as peer specialists to
20 host group and individual meetings with veterans
21 seeking nonclinical support;

22 (3) provide mental health support to veterans
23 24 hours each day, seven days each week; and

24 (4) hire staff to support the program.

25 (e) PROGRAM STANDARDS.—

1 (1) ADVISORY COMMISSION.—The Secretary
2 shall establish an advisory committee for the pur-
3 pose of creating appropriate standards applicable to
4 programs established using grants under this sec-
5 tion.

6 (2) STANDARDS.—The standards developed
7 under paragraph (1) shall include initial and contin-
8 ued training for veteran peer volunteers, administra-
9 tive staffing needs, and best practices for addressing
10 the needs of each veteran served.

11 (f) NONRETENTION OF RECORDS.—The Secretary
12 may not require the recipient of a grant under this section
13 to maintain records on veterans seeking support or to re-
14 port any personally identifying information directly or in-
15 directly to the Secretary about such veterans.

16 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 to carry out
18 this section during the three-year period beginning on the
19 date of the enactment of this Act.

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