

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8208

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize a program of the Department of Defense to promote early literacy among certain young children as part of pediatric primary care, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2022

Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. MELJER, and Mr. HILL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize a program of the Department of Defense to promote early literacy among certain young children as part of pediatric primary care, 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 “Children’s Literacy
5 Initiative on Military Bases Act of 2022” or the “CLIMB
6 Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PRO-**
2 **GRAM TO PROMOTE EARLY LITERACY**
3 **AMONG CERTAIN YOUNG CHILDREN AS PART**
4 **OF PEDIATRIC PRIMARY CARE.**

5 (a) PROGRAM.—Chapter 55 of title 10, United States
6 Code, is amended by inserting after section 1109 the fol-
7 lowing new section (and conforming the table of sections
8 at the beginning of such chapter accordingly):

9 **“§ 1109A. Authority for program to promote early lit-**
10 **eracy among certain young children as**
11 **part of pediatric primary care**

12 “(a) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may
13 carry out a program to promote early literacy among
14 young children the caregivers of whom are members of the
15 armed forces as part of the pediatric primary care of such
16 children.

17 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—Activities under the program
18 under subsection (a) shall be evidence-informed and in-
19 clude the following:

20 “(1) The provision to pediatric primary care
21 providers and other appropriate personnel of the De-
22 partment of training on early literacy promotion.

23 “(2) The purchase and distribution of age-ap-
24 propriate books to covered caregivers.

25 “(3) The modification of waiting rooms in mili-
26 tary medical treatment facilities, including in spe-

1 cific clinics within such facilities, to ensure such
2 waiting rooms include materials that reinforce lan-
3 guage-rich interactions between young children and
4 their covered caregivers, including a full selection of
5 literature for young children.

6 “(4) The dissemination to covered caregivers of
7 education materials on pediatric early literacy.

8 “(5) Such other activities as the Secretary de-
9 termines appropriate.

10 “(c) LOCATIONS.—In carrying out the program
11 under subsection (a), the Secretary may conduct the ac-
12 tivities under subsection (b) at any military medical treat-
13 ment facility.

14 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) The term ‘covered caregiver’ means a
16 member of the armed forces who is a caregiver of a
17 young child.

18 “(2) The term ‘young child’ means any child
19 from birth to the age of five years old, inclusive.”.

20 “(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
22 shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the
23 House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the
24 extent to which the authority under section 1109A(a) of
25 title 10, United States Code, (as added by subsection (a))

1 is used, including a description of any activities carried
2 out under the program so authorized.

3 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
4 tion, or the amendments made by this section, shall be
5 construed as requiring that a child have more than one
6 caregiver as a condition of receiving services under, or oth-
7 erwise participating in, the program authorized under
8 such section 1109A.

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