

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 914

To direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to jointly operate the Federal Recovery Coordination Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Ms. GRAHAM (for herself and Mr. BUCK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to jointly operate the Federal Recovery Coordination Program, 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. IMPROVEMENT OF FEDERAL RECOVERY COOR-**
4 **DINATOR PROGRAM.**

5 (a) PROVISION OF COLLABORATIVE RECOVERY CO-
6 ORDINATOR TRAINING.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
7 fairs shall provide collaborative recovery coordinator train-
8 ing at a qualified nursing or medical school selected by

1 the Secretary (hereinafter in this section referred to as
2 the “qualified nursing or medical school”), to lead system-
3 atic evidence review of care coordination and consensus
4 conference to build the model on evidence-based guide-
5 lines.

6 (b) LITERATURE REVIEW; CONSENSUS CON-
7 FERENCE.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The qualified nursing or
9 medical school is hereby designated to lead literature
10 review and development of evidence-based guidelines
11 for recovery coordination, development of training
12 modules for care coordination and software that is
13 compatible with Department of Veterans Affairs sys-
14 tems for recovery coordination. The qualified nurs-
15 ing or medical school is hereby designated to lead a
16 consensus conference on evidence-based care coordi-
17 nation.

18 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
19 There is authorized to be appropriated \$1,200,000
20 to carry out this subsection.

21 (c) CARE COORDINATION SOFTWARE DEVELOP-
22 MENT.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
24 Affairs shall—

1 (A) enter into a subcontract with an ap-
2 propriate entity for the development of care co-
3 ordination software;

4 (B) carry out a conference for recovery co-
5 ordinator tool validation; and

6 (C) carry out a software pilot program.

7 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
8 There is authorized to be appropriated \$1,200,000
9 to carry out this subsection.

10 (d) RECOVERY COORDINATOR TRAINING.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The qualified nursing or
12 medical school is authorized to train 45 recovery co-
13 ordinators.

14 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For
15 each of fiscal years 2016, 2017, and 2018, there is
16 authorized to be appropriated \$500,000 for training
17 authorized under this subsection.

18 **SEC. 2. JOINT OPERATION OF FEDERAL RECOVERY CO-**
19 **ORDINATION PROGRAM.**

20 (a) FEDERAL RECOVERY COORDINATION PRO-
21 GRAM.—In carrying out the Federal Recovery Coordina-
22 tion Program (in this section referred to as the “Pro-
23 gram”), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of
24 Veterans Affairs shall ensure that—

1 (1) the program is operated jointly by the Sec-
2 retaries;

3 (2) the administration of the Program is not
4 delegated to an individual outside the respective of-
5 fice of each Secretary;

6 (3) the program assists—

7 (A) members of the Armed Forces with se-
8 vere or catastrophic injuries or illnesses who are
9 unlikely to return to active duty and will most
10 likely be medically separated under chapter 61
11 of title 10, United States Code; and

12 (B) members of the Armed Forces and vet-
13 erans whose individual circumstances (including
14 illness, injury, mental health, family situation,
15 and unique benefit needs) are determined by
16 the Secretary concerned to cause difficulties to
17 the member or veteran in transitioning to civil-
18 ian life;

19 (4) in referring members and veterans de-
20 scribed in paragraph (3) to the Program, the Sec-
21 retary of each military department and the Sec-
22 retary of Veterans Affairs makes such referrals at
23 the earliest time feasible, including by the date that
24 is 180 days before the last day of the month in

1 which a member is expected to be retired or sepa-
2 rated from the Armed Forces; and

3 (5) each department and agency of the Federal
4 Government, including the Department of Defense
5 and the Department of Veterans Affairs, provides a
6 Federal Recovery Coordinator of the Program with
7 the information, coordination, and cooperation nec-
8 essary for the Coordinator to assist members and
9 veterans participating in the Program, including the
10 maximum amount of information, coordination, and
11 cooperation available to allow the Coordinator to—

12 (A) ensure the efficient recovery, transi-
13 tion, and reintegration of such members and
14 veterans;

15 (B) act as a liaison between such members
16 and veterans and the team of care providers
17 and other personnel involved with the recovery,
18 transition, and reintegration of the member or
19 veteran, regardless of whether such team is
20 under the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary
21 of Veterans Affairs; and

22 (C) work closely with case and care-man-
23 agement programs that assist such members
24 and veterans.

1 (b) PLAN AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDER-
2 STANDING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the
3 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the
4 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

5 (1) jointly develop a plan to carry out sub-
6 section (a);

7 (2) enter into a memorandum of understanding
8 to jointly carry out the plan beginning 90 days after
9 the date on which the memorandum is entered into;
10 and

11 (3) jointly submit to the appropriate congres-
12 sional committees such plan and memorandum.

13 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
14 on which the memorandum of understanding under para-
15 graph (2) of subsection (b) goes into effect, the Secretary
16 of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
17 jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees
18 a report describing and evaluating the implementation of
19 such memorandum and plan under paragraph (1) of such
20 subsection.

21 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
22 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
23 gressional committees” means the following:

24 (1) The Committees on Armed Services of the
25 House of Representatives and Senate.

- 1 (2) The Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the
- 2 House of Representatives and Senate.

