

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3021

To provide non-medical counseling services for military families.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 20, 2021

Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To provide non-medical counseling services for military families.

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 “Comforting Our Mili-
5 tary Families through On-base or Remote Treatment Act
6 of 2021” or the “COMFORT Act of 2021”.

7 **SEC. 2. NON-MEDICAL COUNSELING SERVICES FOR MILI-**
8 **TARY FAMILIES.**

9 Section 1781 of title 10, United States Code, is
10 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
11 section:

1 “(d) NON-MEDICAL COUNSELING SERVICES.—(1) In
2 carrying out its duties under subsection (b), the Office
3 may coordinate programs and activities for the provision
4 of non-medical counseling services to military families
5 through the Department of Defense Military and Family
6 Life Counseling Program.

7 “(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
8 mental health professional described in paragraph (3) may
9 provide non-medical counseling services at any location in
10 a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory or posses-
11 sion of the United States, without regard to where the
12 provider or recipient of such services is located, if the pro-
13 vision of such services is within the scope of the authorized
14 Federal duties of the provider.

15 “(3) A mental health professional described in this
16 subsection is a person who is—

17 “(A) a currently licensed or certified mental
18 health care provider who holds an unrestricted li-
19 cense or certification that is—

20 “(i) issued by a State, the District of Co-
21 lumbia, or a territory or possession of the
22 United States; and

23 “(ii) recognized by the Secretary of De-
24 fense;

1 “(B) a member of the uniformed services, a ci-
2 vilian employee of the Department of Defense, or a
3 contractor designated by the Secretary; and

4 “(C) performing authorized duties for the De-
5 partment of Defense under a program or activity re-
6 ferred to in paragraph (1).

7 “(4) In this subsection, the term ‘non-medical coun-
8 seling services’ means mental health care services that are
9 non-clinical, short-term, and solution-focused, and address
10 topics related to personal growth, development, and posi-
11 tive functioning.”.

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