

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 456

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize non-medical counseling services, provided by certain mental health professionals, to military families.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2023

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

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize non-medical counseling services, provided by certain mental health professionals, to 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 or the “COMFORT Act”.

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

9 (a) NON-MEDICAL COUNSELING SERVICES.—Not-
10 withstanding any other provision of law, a mental health

1 professional described in subsection (b) may provide non-
2 medical counseling services to military families at any lo-
3 cation in a State, the District of Columbia, or a territory
4 or possession of the United States, without regard to
5 where the provider or recipient of such services is located,
6 if the provision of such services is within the scope of the
7 authorized Federal duties of the provider.

8 (b) COVERED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—

9 A mental health professional described in this subsection
10 is a person who is—

11 (1) a currently licensed or certified mental
12 health care provider who holds an unrestricted li-
13 cense or certification that is—

14 (A) issued by a State, the District of Co-
15 lumbia, or a territory or possession of the
16 United States; and

17 (B) recognized by the Secretary of De-
18 fense;

19 (2) a member of the uniformed services, a civil-
20 ian employee of the Department of Defense, or a
21 contractor designated by the Secretary; and

22 (3) performing authorized duties for the De-
23 partment of Defense under a program or activity re-
24 ferred to in subsection (a).

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