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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. ____

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish standards and requirements for non-Department mental health care providers participating in Department of Veterans Affairs Community Care program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish standards and requirements for non-Department mental health care providers participating in Department of Veterans Affairs Community Care 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4   This Act may be cited as the ''VA Clinical Training

5   in Evidence-based Treatments And Military Culture (Act

1 of 2020'' or the ''VA Clinical TEAM Culture Act of
2 2020''.

SEC. 2. STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-DE-PARTMENT MENTAL HEALTH CARE PRO-VIDERS PARTICIPATING IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY CARE PRO-GRAM.

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
9 shall establish standards and requirements for the provi-
10 sion of mental health care by non-Department of Veterans
11 Affairs health care providers under the Community Care
12 program of the Department under section 1703 of title
13 38, United States Code. Such standards shall be the same
14 as the standards and requirements applicable to Depart-
15 ment employees who provide such mental health care.

16 (b) TRAINING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than the
17 date that is 180 days after the date on which a provider
18 of mental health care becomes an approved provider under
19 the Community Care program of the Department under
20 section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, the Secretary
21 shall require the provider to complete—

22 (1) the basic course described in subsection
23 (c)(1); and

24 (2) each of the four clinical domain courses de-
25 scribed in subsection (c)(2).

1 (c) COURSES DESCRIBED.—

2   (1) BASIC COURSE.—The course described in

3 this paragraph is—

4   (A) a free, four-module course, made avail-

5 able online, that is developed by the Depart-

6 ment of Veterans Affairs about military culture

7 and core competencies for health care profes-

8 sionals; or

9   (B) a successor course or other course the

10 Secretary determines is comparable to the

11 course described in subparagraph (A).

12   (2) CLINICAL DOMAIN COURSES.—The courses

13 described in this paragraph are free courses, made

14 available online, in each of the following clinical do-

15 mains:

16   (A) Evaluation and management of sui-

17 cide.

18   (B) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

19   (C) Traumatic brain injury.

20   (D) Military sexual trauma.

21   (3) CONTINUING EDUCATION.—Each course de-

22 scribed in this subsection shall be designed to meet

23 continuing education requirements for mental health

24 care providers.

25 (d) ADDITIONAL TRAINING.—

1 (1) IDENTIFICATION OF TRAINING AREAS.—Not
2 later than two years after the date of the enactment
3 of this Act, the Secretary shall identify at least three
4 clinical domains for which the need for care among
5 veterans is high and shall develop training courses in
6 those clinical domains.

7 (2) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 60 days
8 after the training courses developed pursuant to
9 paragraph (1) are made available, the Secretary
10 shall require all non-Department mental health care
11 providers approved under the Community Care pro-
12 gram of the Department under section 1703 of title
13 38, United States Code, to complete the courses.

14 (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to
15 the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
16 House of Representatives an annual report on the require-
17 ments of this section. Each such report shall include, for
18 the year covered by the report, the number of non-Depart-
19 ment mental health care providers who have completed the
20 requirements under this section.