

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Veterans Transition
5 Support Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. OUTREACH TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**

7 **UNDER THE SOLID START PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6320(a) of title 38,
9 United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “members of
2 the Armed Forces who are transitioning to civilian
3 life and” after “needs of”; and

4 (2) in paragraph (2)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

6 (A)—

7 (i) by inserting “with the Department
8 of Defense” after “coordinate efforts”; and

9 (ii) by inserting “members of the
10 Armed Forces who are transitioning to ci-
11 vilian life and” after “to assist”;

12 (B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
13 “transitioning members and” after “reach out
14 to”; and

15 (C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
16 “transitioning members and” after “to con-
17 nect”.

18 (b) ACTIVITIES OF THE SOLID START PROGRAM.—

19 Section 6320(b)(1) of such title is amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “with pri-
21 ority for members between 120 and 210 days before
22 separation,” after “separating from the Armed
23 Forces,”;

1 (2) by redesignating subparagraphs (B)
2 through (H) as subparagraphs (E) through (K), re-
3 spectively; and

4 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
5 lowing new subparagraphs:

6 “(B) collecting suicide prevention policies,
7 points of contact, and referral protocols of the De-
8 partment of Defense to inform transitioning mem-
9 bers of the Armed Forces who are in crisis of such
10 resources;

11 “(C) calling each transitioning member of the
12 Armed Forces, regardless of separation type or char-
13 acterization of service, at least one time not earlier
14 than 210 days and not later than 120 days before
15 the separation of the member from the Armed
16 Forces—

17 “(i) to inform the member of the benefits
18 delivery at discharge program; and

19 “(ii) to provide contact information for a
20 local representative recognized under section
21 5902 or agent or attorney recognized under sec-
22 tion 5904 who may assist the member in com-
23 piling and filing the member’s claim for dis-
24 ability compensation;

1 “(D) communicating with transitioning mem-
2 bers of the Armed Forces through other means if
3 calling each member as described in subparagraph
4 (C) has not resulted in contact before exceeding the
5 maximum number of call attempts as the Secretary
6 may specify;”;

7 (4) in subparagraph (G), as redesignated by
8 paragraph (2), by inserting “transitioning member’s
9 and” after “the needs of each”;

10 (5) in subparagraph (H), as redesignated by
11 paragraph (2), by inserting “transitioning members
12 of the Armed Forces and” after “prioritizing out-
13 reach to”; and

14 (6) in subparagraph (I), as redesignated by
15 paragraph (2), by inserting “transitioning women
16 members of the Armed Forces and” after “pro-
17 viding”.