

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—116th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 3235

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a pilot program on posttraumatic growth, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by Mrs. LOEFFLER (for Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. KAINE, and Mrs. LOEFFLER)

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans
5 Posttraumatic Growth Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) There is a shortage of adequate, timely, and
9 effective mental health care available to veterans
10 across the United States.

1 (2) The Department of Veterans Affairs con-
2 tinues to highlight veterans mental health care and
3 suicide prevention as a key priority.

4 (3) There is an opportunity to explore effective
5 alternative treatments focused on the area of
6 posttraumatic growth.

7 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM ON POSTTRAUMATIC GROWTH.**

8 (a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
9 shall conduct a pilot program, through the Office of Whole
10 Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to study
11 the effectiveness and benefits of nonprofit posttraumatic
12 growth programs to determine—

13 (1) the outcomes of such programs in contrast
14 to traditional models of mental health care;

15 (2) the possible integration of such nonprofit
16 programs into the mental health care programs pro-
17 vided by the Secretary; and

18 (3) the budgetary impacts of such integration.

19 (b) REVIEW AND EVALUATION.—In developing the
20 pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

21 (1) review relevant literature to summarize the
22 existing knowledge regarding posttraumatic growth
23 programs; and

24 (2) evaluate such programs.

1 (c) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the
2 pilot program under subsection (a) for a two-year period
3 beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date of
4 the enactment of this Act.

5 (d) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall select more
6 than one location at which to carry out the pilot program
7 under subsection (a), of which at least one location shall
8 include a rural area.

9 (e) PARTICIPANTS.—

10 (1) ELIGIBILITY.—A veteran is eligible to partici-
11 pate in the pilot program under subsection (a) if
12 the Secretary determines that the veteran is—

13 (A) not at known immediate risk of at-
14 tempting suicide; and

15 (B) not participating in traditional mental
16 health treatment.

17 (2) FEMALE VETERANS.—Not fewer than four
18 groups of veterans participating in the pilot program
19 under subsection (a) shall consist only of female vet-
20 erans.

21 (f) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary
22 shall carry out the pilot program under subsection (a) by
23 entering into an agreement with one or more nonprofit
24 organizations that—

1 (1) have staff with expertise in evidence-based
2 care and experience working with veterans;

3 (2) have experience in the science of
4 posttraumatic growth; and

5 (3) use a standardized, evaluated, and com-
6 prehensive curriculum.

7 (g) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
8 on which the pilot program under subsection (a) is com-
9 pleted, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
10 on the pilot program, including a comparison of the care
11 provided under the pilot program and the clinical care
12 model of the Department.