123

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5658, AS REPORTED

OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO OF CONNECTICUT AND MR. COURTNEY OF CONNECTICUT

At the end of subtitle C of title VII, add the following new section:

SEC. 726. POST-DEPLOYMENT MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

(a) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a demonstration project to assess the feasibility and efficacy of providing a face to face post-deployment mental health screening between a member of the Armed Forces and a mental health provider.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The demonstration project shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

(1) A combat stress evaluation conducted in person by a qualified mental health professional within 120 to 180 days after the date on which the member returns from combat theater.

(2) Phone follow-ups by a case manager, not necessarily stationed at the military installation, at the following intervals after the initial post-deployment screening:

1 (A) Six months.

2 (B) 12 months.

3 (C) 18 months.

4 (D) 24 months.

5 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Defense shall
6 develop the demonstration project in consultation with the
7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Health
8 and Human Services. The Secretary of Defense may also
9 coordinate the program with any accredited college, uni-
10 versity, hospital-based or community-based mental health
11 center the Secretary considers appropriate.

12 (d) SELECTION OF MILITARY INSTALLATION.—The
13 demonstration project shall be conducted at two military
14 installations, one active duty and one reserve component
15 demobilization station, selected by the Secretary of De-
16 fense. The installations selected shall have members of the
17 Armed Forces on active duty and members of the reserve
18 components that use the installation as a training and op-
19 erating base, with members routinely deploying in support
20 of operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other assignments
21 related to the global war on terrorism.

22 (e) PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of
23 Defense shall ensure an adequate number of the following
24 personnel in the program:

1 (1) Qualified mental health professionals that
2 are licensed psychologists, psychiatrists, psychiatric
3 nurses, or clinical social workers.
4 (2) Suicide prevention counselors.
5 (f) TIMELINE.—
6 (1) The demonstration project required by this
7 subsection shall be implemented not later than Sep-
8 tember 30, 2009.
9 (2) Authority for this demonstration project
10 shall expire on September 30, 2011.
11 (g) REPORTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall sub-
12 mit to the congressional defense committees—
13 (1) a plan to implement the demonstration
14 project, including site selection and criteria for
15 choosing the site, not later than June 1, 2009,
16 (2) an interim report every 180 days thereafter;
17 and
18 (3) a final report detailing the results not later
19 than January 1, 2012.