

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2283
OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER-MEEKS OF IOWA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Recognizing Commu-
3 nity Organizations for Veteran Engagement and Recovery
4 Act” of the “RECOVER Act”.

**5 SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PRO-
6 GRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO MENTAL
7 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FOR THE PROVI-
8 SION OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR VET-
9 ERANS.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
11 Affairs shall carry out a three-year pilot program under
12 which the Secretary shall make grants to eligible mental
13 health care providers for the provision of mental health
14 care, including evidence-based mental health care delivered
15 in person or via telehealth.

16 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
17 under the pilot program, a mental health care provider
18 shall—

1 (1) have operated at least one outpatient men-
2 tal health facility in the United States for a contin-
3 uous period of at least three years;

4 (2) be licensed or certified under applicable
5 state law to provide outpatient mental health serv-
6 ices;

7 (3) be accredited by—

8 (A) the Joint Commission on Accreditation
9 of Healthcare Organizations;

10 (B) the Commission on Accreditation of
11 Rehabilitation Facilities; or

12 (C) any other nationally recognized accred-
13 iting body the Secretary determines appro-
14 priate; and

15 (4) submit to the Secretary an application that
16 includes such information and assurances as the
17 Secretary may require, including—

18 (A) an identification of the outpatient fa-
19 cility or facilities where the mental health care
20 services will be provided;

21 (B) a plan for providing clinicians at each
22 facility in receipt of grant funds with units of
23 continuing education with respect to veterans
24 issues; and

1 (C) an identification of the percentage of
2 the operating budget for each such facility that
3 was provided through Federal grants during the
4 fiscal year preceding the year during which the
5 application is submitted.

6 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The recipient of a grant
8 under the pilot program shall use the grant—

9 (A) to deliver evidence-based mental health
10 care for veterans in person or via telehealth.

11 (B) to operate or expand an existing out-
12 patient mental health facility or establish a new
13 outpatient mental health facility for the purpose
14 of providing such care;

15 (C) to encourage veterans who are eligible
16 for enrollment in the patient enrollment system
17 under section 1705 of title 38, United States
18 Code, to enroll in such system and to receive
19 medical services furnished by the Department
20 of Veterans Affairs;

21 (D) to support activities necessary to de-
22 liver or sustain care, including—

23 (i) outreach;

24 (ii) care coordination;

25 (iii) veteran engagement;

1 (iv) clinician training;

2 (v) implementation support; and

3 (vi) program evaluation; and

4 (E) to support continuous quality improve-
5 ment and outcomes measurement activities, in-
6 cluding the collection and reporting of clinical
7 outcomes and operational metrics; and

8 (F) to support activities of the program
9 that are not billable, reimbursable, or otherwise
10 authorized by law, including—

11 (i) outreach;

12 (ii) care coordination;

13 (iii) engagement;

14 (iv) implementation support; and

15 (v) program evaluation; and

16 (G) to provide services to individuals for
17 which reimbursement is not otherwise available,
18 including such individuals who are—

19 (i) uninsured;

20 (ii) ineligible for health care furnished
21 by the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

22 (iii) in receipt of health care that is
23 not reimbursable as of the date of the en-
24 actment of this Act.

1 (2) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

2 The recipient of a grant under the pilot program
3 may not—

4 (A) charge an eligible veteran a fee associ-
5 ated with the receipt of mental health care
6 funded by such grant;

7 (B) refuse to provide mental health care to
8 an eligible veteran on the basis that the veteran
9 is not eligible for reimbursement for such care
10 under another payer source; or

11 (C) use grant funds to—

12 (i) duplicate payments made under
13 any contract or agreement to which the
14 Department is a party as of the date of the
15 enactment of this Act; or

16 (ii) pay for the same clinical services
17 or service units that are otherwise billable
18 to a Federal payer, including the Veterans
19 Community Care Program under section
20 1703 of title 38, United States Code, or
21 any other public or private health plan.

22 (3) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
23 this subsection may be construed to—

24 (A) prohibit a grant recipient from seeking
25 reimbursement from non-Department payers for

1 mental health services provided by the grant re-
2 cipient, except that grant funds shall not be
3 used to supplant or duplicate a reimbursement
4 otherwise available under Federal law; or

5 (B) authorize double billing or duplicate
6 payments for the same clinical service or unit of
7 service.

8 (4) SPOUSE AND DEPENDENT CARE.—A recipi-
9 ent may use grant funds to provide care to spouses
10 and dependent children of a veteran when such serv-
11 ices are integral to achieving a successful clinical
12 outcome. Permissible services include—

13 (A) family therapy;

14 (B) couples therapy;

15 (C) group therapy;

16 (D) family psychoeducation; and

17 (E) other counseling services the Secretary
18 determines are clinically necessary.

19 (d) SELECTION OF FACILITIES.—In awarding grants
20 under the pilot program, the Secretary—

21 (1) shall ensure that grants are distributed geo-
22 graphically evenly among rural and urban areas;

23 (2) may consider the proportion of veterans his-
24 torically served by the grant recipient; and

1 (3) may prioritize outpatient mental health fa-
2 cilities located in areas that the Secretary deter-
3 mines—

4 (A) are medically underserved;

5 (B) have large veteran populations;

6 (C) are located near military installations;

7 or

8 (D) have large numbers of veterans at high
9 risk of suicide.

10 (e) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
13 subparagraph (B), no grant under the pilot pro-
14 gram for a facility for any fiscal year may ex-
15 ceed \$1,500,000.

16 (B) LIMITATION.—In the case of an out-
17 patient mental health facility for which at least
18 50 percent of the operating budget of the facil-
19 ity for the preceding fiscal year was provided
20 through Federal grants, no grant under the
21 pilot program for the facility for any fiscal year
22 may exceed the lesser of—

23 (i) 50 percent of the operating budget
24 of the facility; or

25 (ii) \$1,500,000.

1 (2) MULTIPLE GRANTS.—The recipient of a
2 grant under the pilot program—

3 (A) may apply for, and receive, grants for
4 more than one facility of the recipient for any
5 fiscal year; and

6 (B) may apply for, and receive, a grant for
7 a facility that has already received a grant
8 under the pilot program.

9 (f) REGULATIONS; ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Sec-
10 retary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this section,
11 which shall include a requirement that each recipient of
12 a grant under the pilot program shall—

13 (1) demonstrate the capacity to provide ac-
14 countability;

15 (2) demonstrate clinical outcomes;

16 (3) justify the effective use of any private in-
17 vestment funds or Federal grant funds through data
18 collection and reporting metrics; and

19 (4) collect standardized outcome measures in-
20 cluding symptom improvement and program comple-
21 tion.

22 (g) CONTINUITY OF CARE.—A recipient of a grant
23 under the pilot program shall adhere to the continuity of
24 care model established by the Secretary to the Veterans
25 Community Care Program.

1 (h) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the com-
2 pletion of the pilot program under this section, the Sec-
3 retary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot pro-
4 gram that includes the following:

5 (1) The number of veterans who received men-
6 tal health care under the program.

7 (2) An identification of the types of mental
8 health care provided and the time period for which
9 such care was provided.

10 (3) An identification and summary of program
11 outcomes.

12 (4) The number of veterans who received men-
13 tal health care under the program and subsequently
14 enrolled in the patient enrollment system under sec-
15 tion 1705 of title 38, United States Code.

16 (5) An identification of any obstacles faced by
17 grant recipients in providing mental health care
18 under the program.

19 (6) A summary of clinical outcomes based on
20 pre- and post-client functioning—

21 (A) the number of veterans who improved
22 clinically based on relevant clinical evaluation
23 metrics that the Secretary determines appro-
24 priate;

1 (B) the degree of clinical improvement
2 based on such relevant clinical evaluation
3 metrics;

4 (C) the total number of veterans partici-
5 pating in the program; and

6 (D) any other outcome metrics as the Sec-
7 retary determines appropriate.

8 (7) Findings with respect to the sustainability
9 of the program.

10 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
11 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
12 out the pilot program under this section \$20,000,000 for
13 each of fiscal years 2027 through 2029.

14 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.**

15 The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38,
16 United States Code, is amended by striking “June 9,
17 2034” each place it appears and inserting “July 24,
18 2034”.

Amend the long title so as to read: “To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide grants to outpatient mental health facilities for the provision of evidence-based mental health care for veterans, and for other purposes.”.

