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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

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To amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BROWNLEY of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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# A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces.

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 “Building Supportive  
5 Networks for Women Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR WOMEN**  
2 **VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM SERV-**  
3 **ICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

4 (a) PERMANENT PROGRAM.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 38,  
6 United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
7 section 1712C the following new section:

8 **“§ 1712D. Counseling in retreat settings for women**  
9 **veterans newly separated**

10 “(a) PROGRAM.—(1) Commencing on January 1,  
11 2021, the Secretary shall carry out, through the Readjust-  
12 ment Counseling Service of the Veterans Health Adminis-  
13 tration, a program to provide reintegration and readjust-  
14 ment services described in subsection (b) in group retreat  
15 settings to women veterans who are recently separated  
16 from service in the Armed Forces after a prolonged de-  
17 ployment.

18 “(2) The participation of a veteran in the program  
19 under paragraph (1) shall be at the election of the veteran.

20 “(b) COVERED SERVICES.—The services provided to  
21 a woman veteran under the program under subsection  
22 (a)(1) shall include the following:

23 “(1) Information on reintegration into the fam-  
24 ily, employment, and community of the veteran.

25 “(2) Financial counseling.

26 “(3) Occupational counseling.

1           “(4) Information and counseling on stress re-  
2           duction.

3           “(5) Information and counseling on conflict res-  
4           olution.

5           “(6) Such other information and counseling as  
6           the Secretary considers appropriate to assist the vet-  
7           eran in reintegration into the family, employment,  
8           and community of the veteran.

9           “(c) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than December  
10          31, 2022, and each even-numbered year thereafter, the  
11          Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Af-  
12          fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a  
13          report on the program under subsection (a)(1).”.

14                 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
15          tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
16          by inserting after the item relating to section 1712C  
17          the following new item:

                  “1712D. Counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated.”.

18           (b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Effective December 31,  
19          2020, section 203 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omni-  
20          bus Health Services Act of 2010 (38 U.S.C. 1712A note)  
21          is repealed.