

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require mental health screenings for members of the Armed Forces who are deployed in connection with in a contingency operation, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BAUCUS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require mental health screenings for members of the Armed Forces who are deployed in connection with in a contingency operation, 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 “Post-Deployment
5 Health Assessment Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS FOR MEMBERS OF**
7 **THE ARMED FORCES DEPLOYED IN CONNEC-**
8 **TION WITH A CONTINGENCY OPERATION.**

9 (a) MENTAL HEALTH SCREENINGS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
3 retary of Defense shall issue guidance for the provi-
4 sion of an in-person mental health screening for
5 each member of the Armed Forces who is deployed
6 in connection with a contingency operation as fol-
7 lows:

8 (A) At a time during the period beginning
9 180 days before the date of deployment in con-
10 nection with the contingency operation and end-
11 ing 90 days before the date of deployment in
12 connection with the contingency operation.

13 (B) At a time during the period beginning
14 90 days after the date of redeployment from the
15 contingency operation and ending 180 days
16 after the date of redeployment from the contin-
17 gency operation.

18 (C) Subject to subsection (d), not later
19 than each of 6 months, 12 months, and 18
20 months after the screening provided under sub-
21 paragraph (B).

22 (2) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN MEMBERS.—A
23 mental health screening is not required for a mem-
24 bers of the Armed Forces under subparagraphs (B)
25 and (C) of paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines

1 that the member was not subjected or exposed to
2 combat stress during deployment in the contingency
3 operation concerned.

4 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the mental health
5 screenings provided pursuant to this section shall be to
6 identify Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), suicidal
7 tendencies, and major depression in members of the
8 Armed Forces described in subsection (a).

9 (c) ELEMENTS.—The mental health screenings pro-
10 vided pursuant to this subsection shall—

11 (1) be performed by personnel trained and cer-
12 tified to perform such screenings in accordance with
13 such criteria as the Secretary shall establish; and

14 (2) include an in-person dialogue between mem-
15 bers of the Armed Forces described in subsection (a)
16 and personnel described by paragraph (1) on such
17 matters as the Secretary shall specify in order that
18 the screenings achieve the purpose specified in sub-
19 section (b) for such screenings.

20 (d) CESSATION OF SCREENINGS.—No mental health
21 screening is required to be provided an individual under
22 subsection (a)(1)(C) after the individual's discharge or re-
23 lease from the Armed Forces.

24 (e) CONTINGENCY OPERATION DEFINED.—In this
25 section, the term “contingency operation” has the mean-

1 ing given that term in section 101(a)(13) of title 10,
2 United States Code.

3 (f) REPORTS.—

4 (1) REPORT ON GUIDANCE.—Upon the issuance
5 of the guidance required by subsection (a), the Sec-
6 retary shall submit to Congress a report describing
7 the guidance.

8 (2) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF GUID-
9 ANCE.—Not later than one year after the date of the
10 issuance of the guidance required by subsection (a),
11 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on
12 the implementation of the guidance by the military
13 departments. The report shall include an evidence-
14 based assessment of the effectiveness of the mental
15 health screenings provided pursuant to the guidance
16 in achieving the purpose specified in subsection (b)
17 for such screenings.