

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2689

To amend section 411h of title 37, United States Code, to provide travel and transportation allowances for family members of members of the uniformed services with serious inpatient psychiatric conditions.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2008

Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. BAYH, and Mr. NELSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To amend section 411h of title 37, United States Code, to provide travel and transportation allowances for family members of members of the uniformed services with serious inpatient psychiatric conditions.

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. TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION OF FAMILY**
4 **MEMBERS INCIDENT TO SERIOUS INPATIENT**
5 **PSYCHIATRIC CONDITIONS OF MEMBERS OF**
6 **THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2)(B)(i) of subsection
8 (a) of section 411h of title 37, United States Code, is

1 amended by striking “seriously injured, or in” and insert-
 2 ing “is seriously injured, has a serious psychiatric condi-
 3 tion and meets the conditions set forth in paragraph (4),
 4 or is in”.

5 (b) CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO SERVICEMEMBERS
 6 WITH SERIOUS PSYCHIATRIC CONDITIONS.—Such sub-
 7 section is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
 8 lowing new paragraph:

9 “(4) Travel and transportation described in sub-
 10 section (c) may be provided under this subsection for fam-
 11 ily members of a member of the uniformed services de-
 12 scribed under paragraph (2) who has a serious psychiatric
 13 condition if the following conditions are met:

14 “(A) The member is receiving treatment at a
 15 treatment facility located in the United States.

16 “(B) The travel and transportation is provided
 17 pursuant to travel orders issued upon the rec-
 18 ommendation of a physician, including a rec-
 19 ommendation that the family presence would be
 20 helpful and beneficial to the treatment and recovery
 21 of the member.

22 “(C) Safe and appropriate accommodations are
 23 made available to the family members.”.

1 (c) SERIOUS PSYCHIATRIC CONDITION DEFINED.—

2 Subsection (b) of such section is amended by adding at
3 the end the following new paragraph:

4 “(4) In this section, the term ‘serious psychiatric con-
5 dition’, in the case of a member, means that the member
6 has been diagnosed with a psychotic condition requiring
7 hospitalization, has attempted suicide or exhibited suicidal
8 behavior (as verified by appropriate medical personnel), or
9 has been diagnosed with any other psychiatric condition
10 that requires extensive medical treatment or hospitaliza-
11 tion. A member placed within the Special Patient
12 (SPEPAT) or Special Category (SPECCAT) casualty cat-
13 egory is a member with a serious psychiatric condition for
14 purposes of this section.”.

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