

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1660

To require studies on support services for families of members of the National Guard and Reserve who are undergoing deployment.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 2007

Mr. GREGG introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require studies on support services for families of members of the National Guard and Reserve who are undergoing deployment.

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. STUDY ON IMPROVING SUPPORT SERVICES**
4 **FOR CHILDREN, INFANTS, AND TODDLERS OF**
5 **MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RE-**
6 **SERVE UNDERGOING DEPLOYMENT.**

7 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—

8 (1) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall
9 conduct a study to evaluate the feasibility and advis-
10 ability of entering into a contract or other agree-

1 ment with a private sector entity having expertise in
2 the health and well-being of families and children,
3 infants, and toddlers in order to enhance and de-
4 velop support services for children of members of the
5 National Guard and Reserve who are deployed.

6 (2) TYPES OF SUPPORT SERVICES.—In con-
7 ducting the study, the Secretary shall consider the
8 need—

9 (A) to develop materials for parents and
10 other caretakers of children of members of the
11 National Guard and Reserve who are deployed
12 to assist such parents and caretakers in re-
13 sponding to the adverse implications of such de-
14 ployment (and the death or injury of such mem-
15 bers during such deployment) for such children,
16 including the role such parents and caretakers
17 can play in addressing and mitigating such im-
18 plications;

19 (B) to develop programs and activities to
20 increase awareness throughout the military and
21 civilian communities of the adverse implications
22 of such deployment (and the death or injury of
23 such members during such deployment) for
24 such children and their families and to increase

1 collaboration within such communities to ad-
2 dress and mitigate such implications;

3 (C) to develop training for early child care
4 and education, mental health, health care, and
5 family support professionals to enhance the
6 awareness of such professionals of their role in
7 assisting families in addressing and mitigating
8 the adverse implications of such deployment
9 (and the death or injury of such members dur-
10 ing such deployment) for such children; and

11 (D) to conduct research on best practices
12 for building psychological and emotional resil-
13 iency in such children in coping with the de-
14 ployment of such members.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
17 shall submit to Congress a report containing the results
18 of the study conducted under subsection (a).

19 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM ON**
20 **FAMILY-TO-FAMILY SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES**
21 **OF DEPLOYED MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL**
22 **GUARD AND RESERVE.**

23 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall carry
24 out a study to evaluate the feasibility and advisability of
25 establishing a pilot program on family-to-family support

1 for families of deployed members of the National Guard
2 and Reserve. The study shall include an assessment of the
3 following:

4 (1) The effectiveness of family-to-family sup-
5 port programs in—

6 (A) providing peer support for families of
7 deployed members of the National Guard and
8 Reserve;

9 (B) identifying and preventing family prob-
10 lems in such families;

11 (C) reducing adverse outcomes for children
12 of such families, including poor academic per-
13 formance, behavioral problems, stress, and anx-
14 iety; and

15 (D) improving family readiness and post-
16 deployment transition for such families.

17 (2) The feasibility and advisability of utilizing
18 spouses of members of the Armed Forces as coun-
19 selors for families of deployed members of the Na-
20 tional Guard and Reserve, in order to assist such
21 families in coping throughout the deployment cycle.

22 (3) Best practices for training spouses of mem-
23 bers of the Armed Forces to act as counselors for
24 families of deployed members of the National Guard
25 and Reserve.

1 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary of Defense shall submit
2 to Congress a report containing the results of the study
3 conducted under subsection (a) not later than 180 days
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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