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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve postpartum care for members of the Armed Forces and dependents of such members, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. HOULAHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to improve postpartum care for members of the Armed Forces and dependents of such members, 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 “Military Moms Matter
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF POSTPARTUM CARE FOR CER-**
2 **TAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND**
3 **DEPENDENTS.**

4 (a) LEAVE FOR PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CARE-
5 GIVERS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 701 of title 10,
7 United State Code, is amended—

8 (A) in subsection (i)—

9 (i) by striking “total” each place it
10 appears and inserting “parental”;

11 (ii) in paragraph (1)—

12 (I) in subparagraph (A), by strik-
13 ing “, including up to six weeks of
14 medical convalescent leave” and in-
15 serting “ and up to six weeks of med-
16 ical convalescent leave (which may not
17 be considered in calculating the twelve
18 weeks of parental leave)”; and

19 (II) in subparagraph (B), by
20 striking “six weeks” and inserting
21 “twelve weeks”; and

22 (iii) in paragraph (4), by inserting
23 “(and such additional medical convalescent
24 leave may not be considered in calculating
25 the twelve weeks of parental leave author-

1 ized under such paragraph)” after “child”;

2 and

3 (B) in subsection (j)—

4 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “21
5 days of leave” and inserting “twelve weeks
6 of parental leave”;

7 (ii) by striking paragraph (3); and

8 (iii) in paragraph (4), by striking
9 “paragraphs (6)” and all that follows
10 through “shall apply” and inserting “para-
11 graphs (4) through (10) of subsection (i)
12 shall apply”.

13 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made
14 by this section shall take effect on the date of the
15 enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect
16 to births and adoptions that occur on or after the
17 date that is six months after the date of the enact-
18 ment of this Act.

19 (b) POSTPARTUM CARE FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS AND
20 DEPENDENTS.—

21 (1) POSTPARTUM CARE.—Section 1074d of title
22 10, United States Code, is amended—

23 (A) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
24 section (c); and

1 (B) by inserting after subsection (a) the
2 following new subsection (b):

3 “(b) POSTPARTUM CARE FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS
4 AND DEPENDENTS.—(1) At intervals to be prescribed by
5 the Secretary that follow the date on which a covered indi-
6 vidual gives birth, but not less frequently than four times
7 during the one-year period beginning on such date, and
8 upon consent of the covered individual, the Secretary shall
9 furnish postpartum mental health assessments to the cov-
10 ered individual. Such assessments shall include screening
11 questions related to postpartum anxiety and postpartum
12 depression and may be provided in connection with the
13 follow-up appointments described in paragraph (3).

14 “(2)(A) The Secretary shall ensure that, upon a cov-
15 ered individual giving birth or soon thereafter, the covered
16 individual is offered a referral for a pelvic floor examina-
17 tion as part of the medical care to which the covered indi-
18 vidual is entitled under this chapter.

19 “(B) Pelvic floor examinations provided pursuant to
20 subparagraph (A) shall be conducted in-person wherever
21 possible, but if the Secretary determines a covered indi-
22 vidual for whom a referral is offered under such subpara-
23 graph is located in a geographic area with an inadequate
24 number of physical therapists trained in providing such

1 examinations, the examination may be provided through
2 a telehealth appointment.

3 “(3) The Secretary shall ensure that there is provided
4 within each military medical treatment facility an option
5 for any covered individual who has given birth at the facil-
6 ity, and who is eligible to receive care at the facility, to
7 schedule a follow-up appointment for postpartum care of
8 the covered individual that is concurrent with the date of
9 the follow-up appointment for postnatal care of the cov-
10 ered individual’s newborn infant.

11 “(4) In this subsection, the term ‘covered individual’
12 means a member of the armed forces (including the re-
13 serve components) performing active service, or a depend-
14 ent of such member, who is entitled to medical care under
15 this chapter.”.

16 (2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made
17 by this subsection shall take effect on the date of the
18 enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect
19 to births that occur on or after the date that is six
20 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

21 (c) PHYSICAL FITNESS TESTS.—Not later than after
22 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
23 Secretary of Defense shall—

24 (1) develop a standardized policy under which
25 any member of the Armed Forces who gives birth

1 while on active duty may not be required to take a
2 physical fitness test until the date that is one year
3 after the date on which the member gave birth; and

4 (2) ensure such policy is implemented uniformly
5 across each of the Armed Forces.

6 (d) PILOT PROGRAM TO STREAMLINE POSTPARTUM
7 APPOINTMENTS.—

8 (1) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall
9 carry out a one-year pilot program to further
10 streamline the process of scheduling postpartum ap-
11 pointments at military medical treatment facilities
12 by reducing the number of distinct visits required
13 for such appointments.

14 (2) STREAMLINING OF APPOINTMENTS.—In
15 carrying out the pilot program under paragraph (1),
16 the Secretary shall ensure that there is provided
17 within each military medical treatment facility se-
18 lected under paragraph (3) an option for covered in-
19 dividuals who have recently given birth at the facil-
20 ity, and who are eligible to receive care at the facil-
21 ity, to receive a physical therapy evaluation in con-
22 nection with each appointment provided by the facil-
23 ity for postpartum care of the covered individual or
24 for care of the covered individual's newborn infant,
25 including such appointments provided concurrently

1 pursuant to section 1074d(b) of title 10, United 25
2 States Code (as added by subsection (b)).

3 (3) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select not
4 fewer than ten military medical treatment facilities
5 at which to carry out the pilot program under para-
6 graph (1). In making such selection, the Secretary
7 shall ensure geographic diversity with respect to the
8 location of the facilities, including by considering for
9 selection facilities located outside of the United
10 States.

11 (4) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
12 commencement of the pilot program under para-
13 graph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
14 mittees on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives and the Senate a report on the effective-
16 ness of the pilot program. Such report shall in-
17 clude—

18 (A) a recommendation by the Secretary on
19 whether to expand or extend the pilot program;
20 and

21 (B) a summary of the findings that led to
22 such recommendation.

23 (5) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this
24 subsection, the term “covered individual” has the

1 meaning given such term in section 1074d(b) of title
2 10, United States Code (as added by subsection (b)).

3 (e) PELVIC HEALTH AT MILITARY MEDICAL TREAT-
4 MENT FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall take such steps
5 as are necessary to increase the capacity of military med-
6 ical treatment facilities to provide pelvic health rehabilita-
7 tion services, including by increasing the number of phys-
8 ical therapists employed at such facilities who are trained
9 in pelvic health rehabilitation.

10 (f) REVIEW OF PELVIC HEALTH REHABILITATION
11 PROGRAMS.—

12 (1) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall
13 conduct a review of any current pelvic health reha-
14 bilitation programs of the Department of Defense,
15 including an evaluation of the outcomes of any such
16 programs.

17 (2) REPORT.—Not later than nine months after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
19 shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services
20 of the House of Representatives and the Senate a
21 report containing the findings of the review required
22 under paragraph (1).

23 (g) GUIDANCE ON OBSTETRIC HEMORRHAGE TREAT-
24 MENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the en-
25 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue guidance on

- 1 the development and implementation of standard protocols
- 2 across the military health system for the treatment of ob-
- 3 stetric hemorrhages, including through the use of patho-
- 4 gen reduced resuscitative blood products.