SEC. 723. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND FAMILIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) It has been shown that some members of the Armed Forces struggle with post-traumatic stress and other behavioral health disorders from traumatic events experienced during combat.

(2) It has also been shown that emotional distress and trauma from life events can be exacerbated by traumatic events experienced during combat.

(3) Members of the Armed Forces who struggle with post-traumatic stress and other behavioral health disorders are often unable to provide emotional support to spouses and children, causing emotional distress and the risk of behavioral health disorders among the dependents of the members.
(b) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Department of Defense should continue to support members of the Armed Forces and their families by providing family counseling and individual counseling services that reduce the symptoms of post-traumatic stress and other behavioral health disorders and empowers members to be emotionally available to their spouses and children;

(2) such services should be readily available at branches of the Department and military bases;

(3) the Department should rely on industry standards established by the medical community when developing standards for their own practice of family and individual counseling; and

(4) the Department should conduct a five-year study of the progress of members of the Armed Forces that are treated for mental health disorders, including with respect to—

(A) difficulty keeping up with treatment;

(B) familial status before and after treatment; and

(C) access to mental health counseling at Department facilities and military installations.