

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1735**  
**OFFERED BY MS. GRAHAM OF FLORIDA**

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following:

1 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . IMPROVEMENT AND JOINT OPERATION OF FED-**  
2 **ERAL RECOVERY COORDINATOR PROGRAM**  
3 **OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT.—

5 (1) PROVISION OF COLLABORATIVE RECOVERY  
6 COORDINATOR TRAINING.—The Secretary of Vet-  
7 erans Affairs shall provide collaborative recovery co-  
8 ordinator training at a qualified nursing or medical  
9 school selected by the Secretary (hereinafter in this  
10 section referred to as the “qualified nursing or med-  
11 ical school”), to lead systematic evidence review of  
12 care coordination and consensus conference to build  
13 the model on evidence-based guidelines.

14 (2) LITERATURE REVIEW; CONSENSUS CON-  
15 FERENCE.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—The qualified nursing  
17 or medical school is hereby designated to lead  
18 literature review and development of evidence-  
19 based guidelines for recovery coordination, de-

1           velopment of training modules for care coordi-  
2           nation and software that is compatible with De-  
3           partment of Veterans Affairs systems for recov-  
4           ery coordination. The qualified nursing or med-  
5           ical school is hereby designated to lead a con-  
6           sensus conference on evidence-based care co-  
7           ordination.

8                   (B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
9           TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated  
10          \$1,200,000 to carry out this subsection.

11          (3) CARE COORDINATION SOFTWARE DEVELOP-  
12          MENT.—

13                   (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Vet-  
14          erans Affairs shall—

15                           (i) enter into a subcontract with an  
16                           appropriate entity for the development of  
17                           care coordination software;

18                           (ii) carry out a conference for recov-  
19                           ery coordinator tool validation; and

20                           (iii) carry out a software pilot pro-  
21                           gram.

22                   (B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
23          TIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated  
24          \$1,200,000 to carry out this subsection.

25          (4) RECOVERY COORDINATOR TRAINING.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The qualified nursing  
2 or medical school is authorized to train 45 re-  
3 covery coordinators.

4 (B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
5 TIONS.—For each of fiscal years 2016, 2017,  
6 and 2018, there is authorized to be appro-  
7 priated \$500,000 for training authorized under  
8 this subsection.

9 (5) REPORT.—Not later than July 31, 2018,  
10 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the  
11 appropriate congressional committee a report, which  
12 shall include a detailed description of activities car-  
13 ried out under this section and an evaluation of the  
14 program.

15 (6) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
16 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-  
17 propriate congressional committee” means the Com-  
18 mittees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-  
19 resentatives and Senate.

20 (b) JOINT OPERATION OF PROGRAM.—

21 (1) FEDERAL RECOVERY COORDINATION PRO-  
22 GRAM.— In carrying out the Federal Recovery Co-  
23 ordination Program (in this section referred to as  
24 the “Program”), the Secretary of Defense and the  
25 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that—

1 (A) the program is operated jointly by the  
2 Secretaries;

3 (B) the administration of the Program is  
4 not delegated to an individual outside the re-  
5 spective office of each Secretary;

6 (C) the program assists—

7 (i) members of the Armed Forces with  
8 severe or catastrophic injuries or illnesses  
9 who are unlikely to return to active duty  
10 and will most likely be medically separated  
11 under chapter 61 of title 10, United States  
12 Code; and

13 (ii) members of the Armed Forces and  
14 veterans whose individual circumstances  
15 (including illness, injury, mental health,  
16 family situation, and unique benefit needs)  
17 are determined by the Secretary concerned  
18 to cause difficulties to the member or vet-  
19 eran in transitioning to civilian life;

20 (D) in referring members and veterans de-  
21 scribed in subparagraph (C) to the Program,  
22 the Secretary of each military department and  
23 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs makes such  
24 referrals at the earliest time feasible, including  
25 by the date that is 180 days before the last day

1 of the month in which a member is expected to  
2 be retired or separated from the Armed Forces;  
3 and

4 (E) each department and agency of the  
5 Federal Government, including the Department  
6 of Defense and the Department of Veterans Af-  
7 fairs, provides a Federal Recovery Coordinator  
8 of the Program with the information, coordina-  
9 tion, and cooperation necessary for the Coordi-  
10 nator to assist members and veterans partici-  
11 pating in the Program, including the maximum  
12 amount of information, coordination, and co-  
13 operation available to allow the Coordinator  
14 to—

15 (i) ensure the efficient recovery, tran-  
16 sition, and reintegration of such members  
17 and veterans;

18 (ii) act as a liaison between such  
19 members and veterans and the team of  
20 care providers and other personnel involved  
21 with the recovery, transition, and re-  
22 integration of the member or veteran, re-  
23 gardless of whether such team is under the  
24 Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of  
25 Veterans Affairs; and

1 (iii) work closely with case and care-  
2 management programs that assist such  
3 members and veterans.

4 (2) PLAN AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDER-  
5 STANDING.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of De-  
7 fense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

8 (A) jointly develop a plan to carry out  
9 paragraph (1);

10 (B) enter into a memorandum of under-  
11 standing to jointly carry out the plan beginning  
12 90 days after the date on which the memo-  
13 randum is entered into; and

14 (C) jointly submit to the appropriate con-  
15 gressional committees such plan and memo-  
16 randum.

17 (3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after  
18 the date on which the memorandum of under-  
19 standing under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2)  
20 goes into effect, the Secretary of Defense and the  
21 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to  
22 the appropriate congressional committees a report  
23 describing and evaluating the implementation of  
24 such memorandum and plan under paragraph (A) of  
25 such subsection.

1           (4) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
2           TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-  
3           propriate congressional committees” means the fol-  
4           lowing:

5                   (A) The Committees on Armed Services of  
6                   the House of Representatives and Senate.

7                   (B) The Committees on Veterans’ Affairs  
8                   of the House of Representatives and Senate.

