

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5515, AS REPORTED  
OFFERED BY MR. PEARCE OF NEW MEXICO**

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following new section:

1 **SECTION 5 \_\_\_\_ . SERVICE OF WOUNDED WARRIORS AS RE-**  
2 **MOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT PILOTS OR RE-**  
3 **MOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SENSOR OPERA-**  
4 **TORS IN THE AIR FORCE.**

5 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Air  
6 Force shall establish a program under which a qualified  
7 wounded warrior who faces retirement or separation from  
8 the Armed Forces for physical disability may continue, in  
9 lieu of such retirement or separation, to serve in the  
10 Armed Forces as a remotely piloted aircraft pilot or re-  
11 motely piloted aircraft sensor operator in the Air Force.

12 (b) ELIGIBILITY QUALIFICATIONS.—

13 (1) MODIFICATION OF PHYSICAL REQUIRE-  
14 MENTS.—In the case of wounded warriors only, the  
15 Secretary of the Air Force shall modify the physical  
16 fitness requirements applicable to a wounded warrior  
17 who is seeking to serve, or is serving, as a remotely  
18 piloted aircraft pilot or remotely piloted aircraft sen-  
19 sor operator if the wounded warrior is incapable of

1 meeting such requirements, such as completing an  
2 annual physical training test, due to the service-re-  
3 lated disability, but otherwise satisfies the remotely  
4 piloted aircraft medical standard.

5 (2) MEDICAL WAIVERS.—The restriction on  
6 medical waivers contained in section 6.4.5.1 of Air  
7 Force Instruction 48–123 shall not apply to the pro-  
8 gram required by this section.

9 (3) CONTINUED APPLICABILITY OF OTHER RE-  
10 QUIREMENTS.—To serve as a remotely piloted air-  
11 craft pilot or remotely piloted aircraft sensor oper-  
12 ator, a wounded warrior applicant would still have to  
13 pass—

14 (A) the applicable Air Force Officer Quali-  
15 fying Test or Armed Services Vocational Apti-  
16 tude Battery; and

17 (B) the applicable security and mental  
18 health requirements.

19 (4) AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.—A wound-  
20 ed warrior may not be selected to serve, or continue  
21 to serve, as a remotely piloted aircraft pilot or re-  
22 motely piloted aircraft sensor operator if the Sec-  
23 retary of the Air Force determines that—

24 (A) the wounded warrior presents a hazard  
25 to flying safety or mission completion;

1 (B) performance of the duty would be haz-  
2 arduous to the health of the wounded warrior; or

3 (C) the wounded warrior is diagnosed with  
4 post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain  
5 injury, or any other mental disorder that could  
6 hinder mission performance.

7 (c) PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN WOUNDED WARRIORS.—  
8 In selecting wounded warriors to serve as a remotely pi-  
9 loted aircraft pilot or remotely piloted aircraft sensor oper-  
10 ator, the Secretary of the Air Force shall give priority to  
11 wounded warriors whose disability was incurred—

12 (1) in the line of duty in a combat zone des-  
13 igned by the Secretary of Defense; or

14 (2) during the performance of duty in combat-  
15 related operations as designated by the Secretary of  
16 Defense.

17 (d) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—In the case of a wound-  
18 ed warrior who is not a member of the Air Force, the Sec-  
19 retary of the Air Force shall cooperate with the Secretary  
20 concerned having jurisdiction over the wounded warrior to  
21 transfer the wounded warrior from the other Armed Force  
22 to the Air Force to permit the wounded warrior to be se-  
23 lected for the program under this section.

1 (e) WOUNDED WARRIOR DEFINED.—In this section,  
2 the term “wounded warrior” means a member of the  
3 Armed Forces who—

4 (1) is unfit to perform the duties of the mem-  
5 ber’s office, grade, rank, or rating because of phys-  
6 ical disability incurred in the line of duty; and

7 (2) is under consideration for retirement or sep-  
8 aration under chapter 61 of title 10, United States  
9 Code, or has been placed on the temporary disability  
10 retired list.

