AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1540, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 332, after line 24, insert the following:

SEC. 713. EXPANSION OF STATE LICENSURE EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs need to renew and improve efforts to reach out to rural America, which has less access to care;

(2) behavioral health services for active duty members of the Armed Forces, members of the reserve components, members of the National Guard, and veterans need to be more easily and readily accessible; and

(3) medical records and records of deployment need a “warm transition” and better collaboration between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) EXPANSION.—Section 1094(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—
(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by inserting “at any location” before “in any State”; and

(B) by striking “regardless” and all that follows through the end and inserting “regard-
less of where such health-care professional or the patient are located, so long as the practice
is within the scope of the authorized Federal duties.”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “member of the armed forces” and inserting “member of the armed forces, civilian employee of the Department of Defense, personal services contractor under section 1091 of this title, or other health-care professional credentialed and privileged at a Federal health care institution or location specially designated by the Secretary for this purpose”.

(c) REPORTS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall submit to Congress separate reports on each of the following:

(1) The plans to develop and expand programs to use new Internet and communication technologies for improved access to care and resources, including
telemedicine, telehealth care services, and telebehavioral health programs that ensure patient privacy.

(2) Any plans to improve the transition of health and battlefield deployment records to better assist and care for veterans.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to carry out the amendments made by this section.