AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

117–13

OFFERED BY MR. VAN DREW OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of title LX, insert the following:

SEC. 6013. GREEN STAR FLAG FOR NEXT OF KIN OF VETERANS DECEASED AS RESULT OF SUICIDE.

(a) GREEN STAR FLAG.—Chapter 9 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§ 904. Green Star Flag

"(a) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall design and designate a flag as the Green Star Flag to identify next of kin of covered veterans.

"(b) INDIVIDUALS ENTITLED TO DISPLAY GREEN STAR FLAG.—An individual who is next of kin of a covered veteran may display the Green Star Flag.

"(c) LICENSE TO MANUFACTURE AND SELL.—Any person may apply to the Secretary for a license to manufacture and sell the designated Green Star Flag. A person that manufactures a Green Star Flag without having first obtained a license or otherwise violates this section is liable to the United States for a civil penalty of not more than $1,000.
“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who died—

“(A) on or after September 11, 2001; and

“(B) as the result of suicide.

“(2) The term ‘next of kin’ includes—

“(A) a family member, as that term is defined in section 1720K of title 38; and

“(B) any individual specified by the Secretary in regulations prescribed pursuant to this section.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“904. Green Star Flag.”.

SEC. 6014. COUNSELING PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN FAMILY MEMBERS AND CAREGIVERS OF VETERANS DECEASED AS A RESULT OF SUICIDE.

(a) COUNSELING PROGRAM.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:
§ 1720K. Counseling program for certain family
members and caregivers of veterans de-
ceased as a result of suicide

(a) Counseling Program.—(1) Subject to para-
graph (2), the Secretary shall furnish, at no cost to the
recipient, counseling services to—

(A) the next of kin of covered veterans; and

(B) former volunteer caregivers of covered vet-
erans.

(2) The Secretary may provide counseling services
under this section only if the Secretary determines such
counseling services are—

(A) reasonably accessible to the an individual
described in paragraph (1); and

(B) substantially equivalent or superior to
similar services furnished by the Secretary to an in-
dividual described in paragraph (1).

(3) To carry out subsection (a), the Secretary may
enter into an agreement with a Federal, State, or private
entity. The Secretary may provide fair compensation to
such entity pursuant to such agreement.

(b) Public Awareness.—In carrying out the pro-
gram under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) publish information relating to the pro-
gram on an Internet website of the Department; and
“(2) provide information relating to the program to any individual described in paragraph (1).

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The terms ‘covered veteran’ and ‘next of kin’ has the meaning given that term in section 904 of title 36.

“(2) The term ‘covered veterans service organization’ includes—

“(A) an organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of this title; and

“(B) an organization—

“(i) that is described in section 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code; and

“(ii) that carries out activities relating to veterans and their assistance.

“(3) The term ‘family member’ means, with respect to a covered veteran, an individual—

“(A) who is a member of the family of the veteran, including—

“(i) a parent or legal guardian;

“(ii) a spouse;
“(iii) a child;
“(iv) a step-family member; and
“(v) an extended family member; or
“(B) who, prior to the death of the covered veteran, lived with the covered veteran.
“(4) The term ‘former volunteer caregiver’ means, with respect to a covered veteran, an individual—
“(A) who is at least 18 years of age; and
“(B) who, prior to the death of the covered veteran, and in connection with a covered veterans service organization, furnished the covered veteran with counseling, social work, or other personal care services—
“(i) without compensation to such individual; and
“(ii) for a period of at least three months.
“(5) The term ‘personal care services’ has the meaning given that term in section 1720G of this title.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter II of chapter 17 of such title is amended by inserting, after the item relating to section 1720J, the following new item:
“1720K. Counseling program for certain family members and caregivers of veterans deceased as a result of suicide.”.

(e) COMMENCEMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out section 1720K of such title, as added by subsection (a), by not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.