

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require policies and programs to research, prevent, and address the harmful consequences of gambling disorder among members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. WARREN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require policies and programs to research, prevent, and address the harmful consequences of gambling disorder among members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the
5 [“_____ Act of _____”].

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Gambling disorder is a public health con-
2 cern characterized by increasing preoccupation with
3 gambling, loss of control, restlessness, or irritability
4 when attempting to stop gambling, and continuation
5 of the gambling behavior in spite of mounting seri-
6 ous, negative consequences.

7 (2) Gambling disorder is an addiction similar to
8 substance-use disorders, such as those associated
9 with alcohol and drugs.

10 (3) Gambling disorder is a preoccupation with
11 gambling and a loss of control, associated with a
12 higher risk of suicide attempts, substance-use dis-
13 orders, and other mental-health conditions, in addi-
14 tion to being associated with financial and legal
15 problems.

16 (4) According to the National Council on Prob-
17 lem Gambling, it is estimated that 56,000 active
18 duty members of the Armed Forces meet criteria for
19 gambling disorder.

20 (5) However, according to the Department of
21 Defense, an average of 120 military personnel seek
22 treatment for gambling disorder each year.

23 (6) According to a 2017 report by the Govern-
24 ment Accountability Office—

1 (A) the Department of Defense operates
2 more than 3,100 slot machines at military in-
3 stallations overseas that are available to mem-
4 bers of the Armed Forces and their families;

5 (B) those slot machines generate approxi-
6 mately \$100,000,000 in revenue for the Depart-
7 ment, which is used for further recreational ac-
8 tivities for members of the Armed Forces;

9 (C) the Department and the Coast Guard
10 do not systematically screen for gambling dis-
11 order; and

12 (D) the Department and the Coast Guard
13 do not address gambling disorder in a similar
14 manner to other addictive disorders, such as al-
15 cohol-related disorders.

16 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF GAMBLING DISORDER IN HEALTH**
17 **ASSESSMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
18 **FORCES AND RELATED RESEARCH EFFORTS.**

19 (a) ANNUAL PERIODIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT.—The
20 Secretary of Defense shall incorporate medical screening
21 questions specific to gambling disorder into the Annual
22 Periodic Health Assessment (DD Form 3024) conducted
23 by the Department of Defense for members of the Armed
24 Forces.

1 (b) RESEARCH EFFORTS.—The Secretary shall incor-
2 porate into ongoing research efforts of the Department
3 questions on gambling disorder, as appropriate, including
4 by restoring such questions into the Health Related Be-
5 haviors Survey of Active Duty Military Personnel.

6 **SEC. 4. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF POLI-**
7 **CIES AND PROGRAMS TO PREVENT AND**
8 **TREAT GAMBLING DISORDER AMONG MEM-**
9 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR DE-**
10 **PENDENTS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall
12 develop and implement policies and programs on preven-
13 tion, education, and treatment of gambling disorder and
14 integrate gambling disorder into existing mental health
15 and substance abuse programs.

16 (b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall develop the
17 policies and programs described in subsection (a) in co-
18 ordination with the Interagency Task Force on Military
19 and Veterans Mental Health.

20 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
22 to the congressional defense committees a report on efforts
23 undertaken pursuant to subsection (a).

24 (d) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DE-
25 FINED.—In this section, the term “congressional defense

1 committees” has the meaning given that term in section
2 101 of title 10, United States Code.