

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3245

To require the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee to improve mental health screening conducted under separation health assessments for members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Ms. SLOTKIN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint Executive Committee to improve mental health screening conducted under separation health assessments for members of the Armed Forces, 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 “Medical Integrity in
5 Necessary Diagnostics for Our Veterans Act of 2025” or
6 the “MIND Our Veterans Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING**
2 **CONDUCTED UNDER SEPARATION HEALTH**
3 **ASSESSMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**
4 **FORCES.**

5 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
6 gress that—

7 (1) in order to address the mental health chal-
8 lenges following separation of members of the Armed
9 Forces from military service, transitioning members
10 must receive effective mental health screening prior
11 to separation;

12 (2) all screens conducted for mental health for
13 members of the Armed Forces under the separation
14 health assessment must be validated screens;

15 (3) it is essential that the Department of De-
16 fense fully implement the separation health assess-
17 ment with validated screening; and

18 (4) screening for substance use should be con-
19 sidered a necessary mental health screen and in-
20 cluded in the separation health assessment.

21 (b) VALIDATED MENTAL HEALTH SCREENS.—The
22 Joint Executive Committee shall ensure the post-trau-
23 matic stress disorder (PTSD) mental health screen, the
24 alcohol use mental health screen, and the violence risk
25 mental health screen under the separation health assess-
26 ment are each modified to be a validated tool, which may

1 include taking steps to validate an existing screen or re-
2 placing an existing screen with an already validated
3 screen.

4 (c) INCLUSION OF SUBSTANCE USE IN MENTAL
5 HEALTH SCREENS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Joint Executive Com-
7 mittee shall incorporate screening for substance use
8 as a mental health screen and shall assess whether
9 to include such screening in the separation health
10 assessment, including by taking such action as the
11 Joint Executive Committee considers appropriate,
12 which may include taking steps to incorporate a vali-
13 dated screen.

14 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after
15 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Joint Ex-
16 ecutive Committee shall submit to the appropriate
17 congressional committees a report on the justifica-
18 tion of the Joint Executive Committee to include or
19 not include a substance use screen under paragraph
20 (1).

21 (d) IMPLEMENTATION OF SEPARATION HEALTH AS-
22 SESSMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the
23 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, under
24 the guidance of the Under Secretary of Defense for Per-

1 sonnel and Readiness, shall fully implement the separation
2 health assessment.

3 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
5 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
6 mittees” means—

7 (A) the Committee on Armed Services and
8 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-
9 ate; and

10 (B) the Committee on Armed Services and
11 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
12 House of Representatives.

13 (2) JOINT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.—The term
14 “Joint Executive Committee” means the Depart-
15 ment of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense
16 Joint Executive Committee established under section
17 320 of title 38, United States Code.

18 (3) SEPARATION HEALTH ASSESSMENT.—The
19 term “separation health assessment” means the
20 health assessment for members of the Armed Forces
21 separating from military service established by the
22 Joint Executive Committee.

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