SEC. ___. EXPANSION OF COVERAGE OF PERSONS WHO MAY BE ASSISTED UNDER PROGRAM TO PROVIDE POST-ISOLATION SUPPORT ACTIVITIES FOR CERTAIN RECOVERED ISOLATED PERSONNEL.

Section 1056a(c)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "(whether as an individual or a group)";

(2) by inserting "other United States Government" after "military activity or" ; and

(3) by inserting "or other individual determined by the Secretary of Defense" before the period at the end.

[Please note: The "Changes to Existing Law" section below sets out in red-line format how the legislative text would amend existing law.]

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would facilitate the ability of the Department of Defense (DoD) to carry out post-isolation support activities on behalf of recovered isolated personnel by expanding the definition of a "recovered person," and would eliminate "(whether as an individual or a group)" language that is unnecessary, as personnel could only be returned alive as an individual or a group.

Post-isolation support is a process that enables the physical and mental healing of recovered personnel following isolation. This process primarily allows DoD to debrief recovered personnel to discover information of tactical, operational, and strategic value, including information concerning the whereabouts of other missing U.S. persons. Second, it allows DoD to collect lessons learned from an isolating event in order to improve education, training, technology, doctrine, and policy to help prevent future isolating events from occurring. The Secretary of Defense has delegated approval for conducting post-isolation support activities to the Secretaries of the Military Departments and geographic Combatant Commanders.

Current law limits the definition of a "recovered person" to U.S. Government, allied, or coalition government personnel, or private U.S. or foreign nationals isolated while participating in a U.S.-sponsored military activity or mission only, and has no provision for designating other individuals without direct ties to the U.S. military or other U.S. Government agencies. This proposal would expand the definition of a "recovered person" to include other individuals designated by the Secretary of Defense.

The proposed change would benefit DoD by allowing the Department the flexibility to commit resources in support of time-sensitive post-isolation support requests for a broader range of personnel. Requests for support for individuals not currently included in the definition of a "recovered person" must be coordinated via cumbersome inter-departmental requests. It is difficult to process such requests in a timely fashion. Additionally, the proposed change widens the pool of personnel from whom DoD can collect operational information and lessons learned.

Budget Implications: Assuming this authority is exercised twice a year, the cost of the proposal is approximately $100,000 annually. The resources reflected in the table below are funded within the FY 2017 President's Budget.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS ($MILLIONS)									
	FY 2017	**FY 2018**	**FY 2019**	**FY 2020**	**FY 2021**	**Appropriation From**	**Dash-1 Line Item**	**Budget Activity**	**Program Element**
Army	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	Operation and Maintenance, Army	133	01	0202098A
Total	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100				

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would make the following changes to section 1056a of title 10, United States Code:

§ 1056a. Reintegration of recovered Department of Defense personnel; post-isolation support activities for other recovered personnel

(a) REINTEGRATION AND SUPPORT AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may carry out the following:

(1) Reintegration activities for recovered persons who are Department of Defense personnel.

(2) Post-isolation support activities for or on behalf of other recovered persons who are officers or employees of the United States Government, military or civilian officers or employees of an allied or coalition partner of the United States, or other United States or foreign nationals.

(b) ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED.—(1) The activities authorized by subsection (a) for or on behalf of a recovered person may include the following:

(A) The provision of food, clothing, necessary medical support, and essential sundry items for the recovered person.

(B) In accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense, travel and transportation allowances for not more than three family members, or other designated individuals, determined by the commander or head of a military medical treatment facility to be beneficial for the reintegration of the recovered person and whose presence may contribute to improving the physical and mental health of the recovered person.

(C) Transportation or reimbursement for transportation in connection with the attendance of the recovered person at events or functions determined by the commander or head of a military medical treatment facility to contribute to the physical and mental health of the recovered person.

(2) Medical support may be provided under paragraph (1)(A) to a recovered person who is not a member of the armed forces for not more than 20 days.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "post-isolation support", in the case of a recovered person, means—

(A) the debriefing of the recovered person following a separation as described in paragraph (2);

(B) activities to promote or support the physical and mental health of the recovered person following such a separation; and

(C) other activities to facilitate return of the recovered person to military or civilian life as expeditiously as possible following such a separation.

(2) The term "recovered person" means an individual who is returned alive from separation ~~**(whether as an individual or a group)**~~ while participating in or in association with a United States-sponsored military activity or **other United States Government** mission in which the individual was detained in isolation or held in captivity by a hostile entity **or other individual designated by the Secretary of Defense**.

(3) The term "reintegration", in the case of a recovered person, means—

(A) the debriefing of the recovered person following a separation as described in paragraph (2);

(B) activities to promote or support for the physical and mental health of the recovered person following such a separation; and

(C) other activities to facilitate return of the recovered person to military duty or employment with the Department of Defense as expeditiously as possible following such a separation.