SEC. 513. TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESERVE COMPONENT SUICIDE PREVENTION AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM.

(a) CODIFICATION AND EXTENSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1007 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

‘‘§ 10219. Suicide prevention and community healing and response program

“(a) PROGRAM REQUIREMENT.— The Secretary of Defense shall carry out a program to provide National Guard and Reserve members and their families with training in suicide prevention and community healing and response to suicide.

“(b) SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING.—Under the program, the Secretary shall provide National Guard and Reserve members with training in suicide prevention. Such training may include—

“(1) describing the warning signs for suicide and teaching effective strategies for prevention, intervention, and postvention;

“(2) examining the influence of military culture on risk and protective factors for suicide; and

“(3) engaging in interactive case scenarios and role plays to practice effective intervention strategies.

“(c) COMMUNITY HEALING AND RESPONSE TRAINING (POSTVENTION).—Under the program, the Secretary shall provide the families and communities of National Guard and Reserve members with training in responses to suicide that promote individual and community healing. Such training may include—

"(1) enhancing collaboration among community members and local service providers to create an integrated, coordinated community response to suicide;

"(2) communicating best practices for preventing suicide, including safe messaging, appropriate memorial services, and media guidelines;

"(3) addressing the impact of suicide on the military and the larger community, and the increased risk that can result; and

"(4) managing resources to assist key community and military service providers in helping the families, friends, and fellow servicemembers of a suicide victim through the processes of grieving and healing.

"(d) COMMUNITY TRAINING ASSISTANCE.—The program shall include the provision of assistance with such training to the local communities of those members and families, to be provided in coordination with local community programs.

"(e) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary shall collect and analyze 'lessons learned' and suggestions from State National Guard and Reserve organizations with existing or developing suicide prevention and community response programs.

"(f) TERMINATION.—The program under this section shall terminate on October 1, 2015.".

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

"10219. Suicide prevention and community healing and response program.".

(b) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED PROVISION.—Subsection (i) of section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (10 U.S.C. 10101 note) is repealed.

Section-by-Section Analysis

This proposal would codify the "Suicide Prevention and Community Healing and Response Program" established by section 595 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010, which amended section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, inserting the program as a new subsection (i). This proposal will also vest responsibility for direction of the Program with the Secretary of Defense as opposed to the Office for Reintegration Programs, the entity originally directed to establish the program.

The original legislation directed the establishment of a program "to provide National Guard and Reserve members and their families, and in coordination with community programs, assist the communities, with training in suicide prevention and community healing and response to suicide." To assist with the implementation of the statute, the Yellow Ribbon Program conducted a needs/gap analysis in conjunction with the Reserve components. Initial findings indicated that all Reserve Components have existing suicide prevention programs which vary widely in scope and quality. There are also several other initiatives intended to reduce the number of suicides in the military community, including:

—The Army's report and recommendations on suicide prevention.

—The Congressionally mandated Department of Defense (DoD) Task Group on Suicide Prevention, directed to report recommendations to a General Officer Steering Committee, and

— The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, on which DoD is co-chair, with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

While these efforts are well intended and individually beneficial, the intent of this proposal is to ensure that the DoD is able to provide a uniform and high-quality resource to assist Service members in the reserve component and families

The supervision of this program would be better served if the primary responsibility was assigned to the Secretary of Defense, as provided in the proposal. The Secretary may then delegate oversight and responsibility to the Undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness, who has operational and administrative oversight of the Suicide Prevention and Risk Reduction Committee (SPARRC). SPARRC will continue to support training provided by the Services and Reserve Components and consolidate efforts within DoD to coordinate and implement suicide prevention initiatives. Improving suicide prevention training efforts for the National Guard and Reserve will be best served by a unified office of all suicide prevention within DoD.

Budget Implications: – There are no expected budget implications. This legislative proposal only shifts the primary responsibility for suicide prevention from the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, the Office of Reintegration Program to the Secretary of Defense.

NUMBER OF PERSONNEL AFFECTED						
Service	**Status**	**FY12**	**FY13**	**FY14**	**FY15**	**FY16**
Army Reserve	SELRE	205,000	206,000	206,000	206,000	206,000
Navy Reserve	SELRE	64,269	64,369	61,369	61,369	61,369
Marine Corps Reserve	SELRE	41,531	41,531	41,531	41,531	41,531
Air Force Reserve	SELRE	71,400	72,300	72,400	72,400	72,400

Army National Guard	SELRE	358,200	358,200	358,200	358,200	358,200
Air National Guard	SELRE	106,700	106,700	106,700	106,700	106,700
TOTAL		847,100	849,100	846,200	846,200	846,200

Changes to Existing Law: This proposal would add a new section to title 10, United States Code, set out in full in the legislative text above, and would strike subsection (i) of section 582 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (10 U.S.C. 10101 note) as follows:

SEC. 582. YELLOW RIBBON REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.

(a) ***

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~~[(i) Suicide Prevention and Community Healing and Response Program.—~~

~~[(1) Establishment.—As part of the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, the Office for Reintegration Programs shall establish a program to provide National Guard and Reserve members and their families, and in coordination with community programs, assist the communities, with training in suicide prevention and community healing and response to suicide.~~

~~[(2) Design.—In establishing the program under paragraph (1), the Office for Reintegration Programs shall consult with—~~

~~[(A) persons that have experience and expertise with combining military and civilian intervention strategies that reduce risk and promote healing after a suicide attempt or suicide death for National Guard and Reserve members; and~~

~~[(B) the adjutant general of each State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the Virgin Islands.~~

~~[(3) Operation~~

~~[(A) Suicide prevention training.—The Office for Reintegration Programs shall provide National Guard and Reserve members with training in suicide prevention. Such training shall include—~~

~~[(i) describing the warning signs for suicide and teaching effective strategies for prevention and intervention;~~

~~[(ii) examining the influence of military culture on risk and protective factors for suicide; and~~

~~[(iii) engaging in interactive case scenarios and role plays to practice effective intervention strategies.~~

~~[(B) Community healing and response training.—The Office for Reintegration Programs shall provide the families and communities of National Guard and Reserve members with training in responses to suicide that promote individual and community healing. Such training shall include—~~

~~[(i) enhancing collaboration among community members and local service providers to create an integrated, coordinated community response to suicide;~~

~~[(ii) communicating best practices for preventing suicide, including safe messaging, appropriate memorial services, and media guidelines;~~

~~[(iii) addressing the impact of suicide on the military and the larger community, and the increased risk that can result; and~~

~~[(iv) managing resources to assist key community and military service providers in helping the families, friends, and fellow soldiers of a suicide victim through the processes of grieving and healing.~~

~~[(C) Collaboration with Centers of Excellence—The Office for Reintegration Programs, in consultation with the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury, shall collect and analyze 'lessons learned' and suggestions from State National Guard and Reserve organizations with existing or developing suicide prevention and community response programs.~~

~~[(4) Termination—The program established under this subsection shall terminate on October 1, 2012.]~~