

The Embedded Mental Health Providers for Reserves Act of 2010

A bill to expand and improve mental health care for members of the National Guard and Reserve by embedding behavioral health care specialists with Reserve Component units

Our Citizen Servicemembers Need Accessible Mental Health Care

With two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, our Reserve and National Guard servicemembers have gone through frequent deployments and face intensified training demands.

- Behavior health resources are not always readily available to Reserve and National Guard servicemembers who recognize a need for help.
- The health and welfare of our Reserve and National Guard servicemembers is critical for military readiness, retention, and morale.

A Proven Program to Provide This Care

This bill will expand access to behavioral health resources to over 840,000 Reserve and National Guard servicemembers during their annual training or their individual duty training.

- This bill builds on the Embedded Provider pilot program with the California National Guard, which currently supports 27 licensed behavioral health counselors embedded with 40 California National Guard Units.
- The program allows embedded counselors to provide support and referral assistance during drill weekends and family readiness events.
- The program ensures that a consistent provider – instead of a rotating cadre - for each unit can earn the trust of servicemembers and family members through regular contact in familiar, non-clinical surroundings.

Expanded Mental Health Care for ALL National Guard and Reserve

This bill will expand access to mental health assessments and behavioral health support to all members of the Reserve and National Guard participating in annual training or individual duty training.

- Servicemembers will have access to licensed mental health professionals during unit training assemblies for assessments and referrals.
- The Reserve Component units will provide suicide prevention and post-suicide response training programs and Psychological health programs.
- These mental health care providers take on this responsibility part-time, so this bill will not remove these specialized providers from the labor pool.