

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program regarding treating pregnancy as a qualifying event for enrollment in TRICARE Select.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program regarding treating pregnancy as a qualifying event for enrollment in TRICARE Select.

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 “Improving Access to
5 Prenatal Care for Military Families Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO TREAT PREGNANCY AS A**
7 **QUALIFYING EVENT FOR ENROLLMENT IN**
8 **TRICARE SELECT.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of

1 Defense shall commence a five-year pilot program under
2 which the Secretary shall treat pregnancy as a qualifying
3 event under section 1099(b)(1)(B) of title 10, United
4 States Code, for enrollment in TRICARE Select by an eli-
5 gible beneficiary.

6 (b) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than one year
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees
9 a briefing on the status of the pilot program under sub-
10 section (a).

11 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
13 after the Secretary commences the pilot program
14 under subsection (a), and annually thereafter for the
15 next four years, the Secretary shall submit to the
16 appropriate congressional committees a report on
17 the pilot program.

18 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph
19 (1) shall include the number of covered enrollment
20 changes during the period covered by the report,
21 disaggregated by—

22 (A) month, beginning with January 2026;

23 and

24 (B) whether the eligible beneficiary made
25 such covered enrollment change—

1 (i) because the eligible beneficiary is a
2 member of the uniformed services who sep-
3 arated from active duty;

4 (ii) because the eligible beneficiary is
5 a member of the uniformed services who
6 returned to active duty;

7 (iii) because the eligible beneficiary is
8 a dependent of a member of the uniformed
9 services who separated from active duty;

10 (iv) because the eligible beneficiary is
11 a dependent of a member of the uniformed
12 services who returned to active duty; or

13 (v) based on the treatment, under the
14 pilot program under subsection (a), of
15 pregnancy as a qualifying event for enroll-
16 ment in TRICARE Select.

17 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) ACTIVE DUTY.—The term “active duty” has
19 the meaning given that term in section 101(d) of
20 title 10, United States Code.

21 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
22 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
23 mittees” means—

24 (A) the Committee on Armed Services of
25 the Senate; and

1 (B) the Committee on Armed Services, the
2 Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
3 ture, and the Committee on Energy and Com-
4 merce of the House of Representatives.

5 (3) COVERED ENROLLMENT CHANGE.—The
6 term “covered enrollment change” means a change
7 to a previous election by an eligible beneficiary
8 under subsection (b)(1) of section 1099 of title 10,
9 United States Code, to enroll in a health care plan
10 designated under subsection (c) of such section.

11 (4) DEPENDENT; TRICARE PROGRAM; TRICARE
12 SELECT.—The terms “dependent”, “TRICARE pro-
13 gram”, and “TRICARE Select” have the meanings
14 given those terms in section 1072 of title 10, United
15 States Code.

16 (5) ELIGIBLE BENEFICIARY.—The term “eligi-
17 ble beneficiary” means an individual who is eligible
18 to enroll in TRICARE Select under section 1075(b)
19 of title 10, United States Code.

20 (6) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term “uni-
21 formed services” has the meaning given that term in
22 section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.