

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Commandant of the Coast Guard to establish an interim behavioral health policy for members of the Coast Guard that achieves parity with the behavioral health policy of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Ms. MURKOWSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To require the Commandant of the Coast Guard to establish an interim behavioral health policy for members of the Coast Guard that achieves parity with the behavioral health policy of the Department of Defense, 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 “Guarding Mental  
5       Health Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COAST GUARD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY.**

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

4 (1) members of the Coast Guard—

5 (A) are exposed to high-risk, and often  
6 stressful, duties; and

7 (B) should be encouraged to seek medical  
8 treatment and professional guidance; and

9 (2) after treatment for behavioral health condi-  
10 tions, many members of the Coast Guard should be  
11 allowed to resume service in the Coast Guard if—

12 (A) they are able to do so without per-  
13 sistent duty modifications; and

14 (B) do not pose a risk to other members  
15 of the Coast Guard.

16 (b) INTERIM BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-  
19 mandant of the Coast Guard (referred to in this sec-  
20 tion as the “Commandant”) shall establish an in-  
21 terim behavioral health policy for members of the  
22 Coast Guard that is in parity with section 5.28 (re-  
23 lating to behavioral health) of Department of De-  
24 fense Instruction 6130.03, volume 2, “Medical  
25 Standards for Military Service: Retention”.

1           (2) TERMINATION.—The interim policy estab-  
2           lished under paragraph (1) shall remain in effect  
3           until the date on which the Commandant issues a  
4           permanent behavior health policy for members of the  
5           Coast Guard.

6           (c) PERMANENT POLICY.—In developing a perma-  
7           nent policy with respect to retention and behavioral health,  
8           the Commandant shall ensure that the policy of the Coast  
9           Guard is in parity with section 5.28 (relating to behavioral  
10          health) of Department of Defense Instruction 6130.03,  
11          volume 2, “Medical Standards for Military Service: Reten-  
12          tion”.