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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program to provide services from midwives to covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STRICKLAND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to carry out a pilot program to provide services from midwives to covered beneficiaries under the TRICARE program.

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 “Maternal and Infant
5 Delivery Wellness and Integration with Vital Expertise
6 Support for Service Members Act of 2025” or the “MID-
7 WIVES for Service Members Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO MAKE MIDWIFE SERVICES**
2 **AVAILABLE THROUGH TRICARE.**

3 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later than one year after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
5 Defense shall begin a five-year pilot program to provide
6 services from covered midwives to covered beneficiaries
7 under the TRICARE program.

8 (b) AUTHORITY TO MAKE PERMANENT.—If the Sec-
9 retary determines, after the termination of the pilot pro-
10 gram that such pilot program was successful, the Sec-
11 retary may prescribe such regulations to establish a per-
12 manent program to make services from covered midwives
13 available to covered beneficiaries as the Secretary deter-
14 mines appropriate.

15 (c) REPORTS.—

16 (1) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than
17 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
18 the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on
19 Armed Services of the House of Representatives and
20 the Senate a plan to implement the pilot program
21 under subsection (a).

22 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
23 after the date on which the pilot program begins and
24 annually thereafter until the date that is 1 year
25 after the termination of the pilot program, the Sec-
26 retary shall submit to the Committees on Armed

1 Services of the House of Representatives and the
2 Senate a report including:

3 (A) The total cost of the pilot program and
4 the cost per covered beneficiary who received
5 care under the pilot program.

6 (B) The total number of covered bene-
7 ficiaries who received care under the pilot pro-
8 gram.

9 (C) The race, ethnicity, age, sex, relation-
10 ship status, Armed Force, military occupation,
11 and rank, as applicable, of covered beneficiaries
12 who received care under the pilot program.

13 (D) An assessment of the effects of the
14 pilot program on quality of care, including—

15 (i) on maternal and fetal outcomes;

16 and

17 (ii) on the number of pre-term births,
18 low-weight births, and rates of caesarean
19 section, and such other data points as the
20 Secretary determines appropriate.

21 (E) An assessment of patient satisfaction
22 of covered beneficiaries who received care
23 through the pilot program.

24 (F) An assessment of access to maternity
25 and labor and delivery care for covered bene-

1 ficiaries, including average wait time for an ini-
2 tial appointment and average travel time to the
3 provider.

4 (G) An assessment of the effectiveness of
5 the pilot program.

6 (H) Recommendations for adjustments to
7 the pilot program.

8 (I) The estimated cost savings as a result
9 of improved maternal and fetal health outcomes
10 due to the pilot program.

11 (J) The Secretary of Defense's rec-
12 ommendations relating to changes to the pilot
13 program, an extension of the pilot program, and
14 whether the pilot program should be expanded
15 made permanent.

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) The terms “covered beneficiary” and
18 “TRICARE program” have the meanings given such
19 terms in section 1072 of title 10, United States
20 Code.

21 (2) The term “covered midwife” means a cer-
22 tified professional midwife or certified midwife who
23 meets—

24 (A) the international definition of a mid-
25 wife, and global standards for midwifery edu-

1 cation, established by the International Confed-
2 eration of Midwives, and
3 (B) any professional credentialing require-
4 ment required to practice midwifery under ap-
5 plicable State law.