

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5136, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. MCMAHON OF NEW YORK
(Amendment for himself, Mr. Rooney of Florida, Mr. Teague
of New Mexico, and Mr. Luján of New Mexico)

Page 284, after line 22, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 727. SENSE OF CONGRESS CONCERNING THE IMPLE-**
2 **MENTATION OF THE CONGRESSIONALLY-**
3 **MANDATED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE IN-**
4 **STITUTE OF MEDICINE STUDY.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Section 717 of the National Defense Au-
7 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law
8 110–181; 10 U.S.C. 1073 note) directed the Sec-
9 retary of Defense to enter into a contract with the
10 Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of
11 Sciences to conduct a study and make recommenda-
12 tions regarding the credentials, preparation, and
13 training of licensed mental health counselors.

14 (2) In the study, the Institute of Medicine of
15 the National Academy of Sciences recommends per-
16 mitting counselors to practice independently under
17 the TRICARE program.

1 (3) In addition, the Institute of Medicine of the
2 National Academy of Sciences recommends that
3 TRICARE implement a comprehensive quality man-
4 agement system for all of its mental health profes-
5 sionals.

6 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that the Secretary of Defense should implement the
8 requirements of subsection (a) of such section 717 by not
9 later than December 31, 2010, because such implementa-
10 tion will increase the urgently needed mental health staff
11 of the Department of Defense and ensure that members
12 of the Armed Forces will receive timely and confidential
13 post-deployment screenings with a mental health profes-
14 sional.

