

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2340

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress notice of any suicide or attempted suicide of a veteran in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2019

Mr. ROSE of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide to Congress notice of any suicide or attempted suicide of a veteran in a Department of Veterans Affairs facility, 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 “Fostering Intergovern-
5 mental Health Transparency in Veteran Suicides Act” or
6 “FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE OF SUICIDES AND AT-**
2 **TEMPTED SUICIDES OF VETERANS IN DE-**
3 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILI-**
4 **TIES.**

5 Section 1720F of title 38, United States Code, is
6 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
7 section:

8 “(1) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—(1)
9 In the case of the suicide or attempted suicide of any vet-
10 eran that occurs in, or on the grounds of, a Department
11 facility, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on
12 Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of Rep-
13 resentatives and the Senator and member of Congress rep-
14 resenting the district in which the facility is located the
15 following notices:

16 “(A) Not later than seven days after the date
17 on which the suicide or attempted suicide occurs, no-
18 tice of—

19 “(i) the suicide or attempted suicide; and

20 “(ii) the name of the facility and location
21 where the suicide or attempted suicide occurred.

22 “(B) Not later than 60 days after such date,
23 notice of the following information regarding the vet-
24 eran who committed or attempted to commit suicide:

1 “(i) The enrollment status of the veteran
2 with respect to the patient enrollment system of
3 the Department under section 1705 of this title.

4 “(ii) The most recent encounter between
5 the veteran and any employee or facility of the
6 Veterans Health Administration before the sui-
7 cide or attempted suicide occurred.

8 “(iii) Whether the veteran had private
9 medical insurance.

10 “(iv) The Armed Force in which the vet-
11 eran served.

12 “(v) The time period when the veteran
13 served in the Armed Forces.

14 “(vi) The age of the veteran.

15 “(vii) The marital status of the veteran.

16 “(viii) The employment status of the vet-
17 eran.

18 “(ix) The housing status of the veteran.

19 “(x) Confirmation that the Secretary has
20 provided notice to the immediate family mem-
21 bers of the veteran regarding any Department
22 support or assistance for which such family
23 members may be eligible.

24 “(2) Each notice submitted under subparagraph (A)
25 or (B) of paragraph (1) shall include a copy of guidance

1 developed by the Secretary for purposes of dissemination
2 that is designed to—

3 “(A) deter the sensationalism of suicide;

4 “(B) provide information regarding warning
5 signs that are often exhibited by veterans at risk of
6 suicide; and

7 “(C) provide notice of the resources the Depart-
8 ment offers to veterans who may be at risk of sui-
9 cide, including the Veterans Crisis Line and read-
10 justment counseling provided through Vet Centers.”.

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