

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2340

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Fostering Intergovern-
3 mental Health Transparency in Veteran Suicides Act” or
4 “FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE OF SUICIDES AND AT-**
6 **TEMPTED SUICIDES OF VETERANS IN DE-**
7 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILI-**
8 **TIES.**

9 Section 1720F of title 38, United States Code, is
10 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
11 section:

12 “(1) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—(1)
13 In the case of the suicide or attempted suicide of any vet-
14 eran that occurs in, or on the grounds of, a Department
15 facility, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on
16 Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of Rep-
17 resentatives and the Senators and member of Congress
18 representing the district in which the facility is located
19 and the Senators and member of Congress representing
20 the district in which the veteran resides the following no-
21 tices:

22 “(A) Not later than 7 days after the date on
23 which the suicide or attempted suicide occurs, notice
24 of—

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

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

3 “(B) Subject to subparagraph (C), not later
4 than 60 days after such date, notice of the following
5 information (if available) regarding the veteran who
6 committed or attempted to commit suicide:

7 “(i) The enrollment status of the veteran
8 with respect to the patient enrollment system of
9 the Department under section 1705 of this title.

10 “(ii) The most recent encounter between
11 the veteran and any employee or facility of the
12 Veterans Health Administration before the sui-
13 cide or attempted suicide occurred.

14 “(iii) Whether the veteran had other med-
15 ical insurance or coverage (including
16 TRICARE, Medicare, and Medicaid).

17 “(iv) The Armed Force in which the vet-
18 eran served.

19 “(v) The time period when the veteran
20 served in the Armed Forces.

21 “(vi) The age of the veteran.

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

23 “(viii) The employment status of the vet-
24 eran.

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

1 “(x) The gender identity of the veteran.

2 “(xi) The sexual orientation of the veteran.

3 “(xii) The race of the veteran.

4 “(xiii) Confirmation that the Secretary has
5 provided notice to the immediate family mem-
6 bers of the veteran regarding any Department
7 support or assistance for which such family
8 members may be eligible.

9 “(C) In collecting and reporting information
10 under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall take all
11 steps the Secretary determines necessary to respect
12 the privacy and dignity of the veteran and the family
13 of the veteran.

14 “(2) Each notice submitted under subparagraph (A)
15 or (B) of paragraph (1) shall include a copy of guidance
16 developed by the Secretary for purposes of dissemination
17 that is designed to—

18 “(A) deter the sensationalism of suicide;

19 “(B) provide information regarding warning
20 signs that are often exhibited by veterans at risk of
21 suicide; and

22 “(C) provide notice of the resources the Depart-
23 ment offers to veterans who may be at risk of sui-

1 cide, including the Veterans Crisis Line and read-
2 justment counseling provided through Vet Centers.”.

Passed the House of Representatives May 21, 2019.

Attest:

Clerk.

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