

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6873

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include information relating to the rate of suicide among covered Reserves in each National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report of the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 19, 2023

Mr. RESCHENTHALER (for himself, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. VAN ORDEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

---

## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to include information relating to the rate of suicide among covered Reserves in each National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report of the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Each year since 2016, the Department of  
6 Veterans Affairs has produced an annual report re-

1        regarding suicide mortality of “veterans”, defined as  
2        persons who—

3                (A) were activated for Federal military  
4                service; and

5                (B) were not performing such Federal mili-  
6                tary service at the time of death.

7                (2) Since 2020, the National Veteran Suicide  
8        Prevention Annual Report of the Office of Mental  
9        Health and Suicide Prevention of the Department  
10       has not included information relating to the rate of  
11       suicide among former members of the Guard or Re-  
12       serve who were never activated for Federal military  
13       service.

14                (3) In 2018, there were 538 suicides among  
15       former members of the Armed Forces who were  
16       never activated for Federal military service, an aver-  
17       age of 1.5 suicide deaths per day according to the  
18       2020 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual  
19       Report.

20                (4) According to the Department of Veterans  
21       Affairs, there is ongoing collaboration between sui-  
22       cide prevention and surveillance scientists in the De-  
23       partment of Defense and the Department of Vet-  
24       erans Affairs with respect to suicide mortality

1 among former members of the Armed Forces who  
2 were never activated for Federal military service.

3 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF RATE OF SUICIDE AMONG COVERED**  
4 **RESERVES IN NATIONAL VETERAN SUICIDE**  
5 **PREVENTION ANNUAL REPORTS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-  
7 fairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, shall  
8 include the rate of suicide among covered Reserves in each  
9 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report of the  
10 Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention of the De-  
11 partment (or any successor document).

12 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) The terms “active military, naval, air, or  
14 space service” and “reserve component” have the  
15 meanings given such terms in section 101 of title 38,  
16 United States Code.

17 (2) The term “covered Reserve” means a  
18 former member of a reserve component of one of the  
19 Armed Forces who did not serve in the active mili-  
20 tary, naval, air, or space service.

○