

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7816

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of notice letters that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2024

Mr. DUARTE (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, and Ms. BUDZINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center for an assessment of notice letters that the Secretary sends to claimants for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, 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 “Clear Communication  
5 for Veterans Claims Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF NOTICES THAT THE**  
2 **SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENDS**  
3 **TO CLAIMANTS.**

4 (a) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the  
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-  
6 erans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with  
7 an FFRDC for an assessment of notices that the Sec-  
8 retary sends to claimants.

9 (b) ASSESSMENT.—An FFRDC that enters to an  
10 agreement under subsection (a) shall submit to the Sec-  
11 retary a written assessment of such notices. The assess-  
12 ment shall include the following:

13 (1) The determination of the FFRDC whether  
14 each such notice may be feasibly altered to reduce  
15 paper consumption by, and costs to, the Federal  
16 Government.

17 (2) The recommendations of the FFRDC re-  
18 garding how the Secretary may, in compliance with  
19 laws administered by the Secretary, make such no-  
20 tices clearer to claimants, better organized, and  
21 more concise.

22 (c) REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90  
23 days after the Secretary receives the assessment under  
24 subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

1           (1) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-  
2           fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a  
3           copy of such assessment; and

4           (2) implement the recommendations in the as-  
5           sessment.

6           (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7           (1) The term “FFRDC” means a federally  
8           funded research and development center.

9           (2) The terms “claimant” and “notice” have  
10          the meanings given such terms in section 5100 of  
11          title 38, United States Code.

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