

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 2915  
OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Female Veteran Sui-  
3 cide Prevention Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. SPECIFIC CONSIDERATION OF WOMEN VETERANS  
5                   IN EVALUATION OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-  
6                   ERANS AFFAIRS MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND  
7                   SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.**

8       Section 1709B(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code,  
9 is amended—

10           (1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the  
11 semicolon the following: “, including specific metrics  
12 applicable to women”;

13           (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at  
14 the end;

15           (3) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period  
16 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

17           (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
18 paragraph:

1           “(F) identify the mental health care and suicide  
2           prevention programs conducted by the Secretary  
3           that are most effective for women veterans and such  
4           programs with the highest satisfaction rates among  
5           women veterans.”.

6   **SEC. 3. MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR VETERANS WHO**  
7                           **SERVED IN CLASSIFIED MISSIONS.**

8           (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
9           gress that veterans who experience combat-related mental  
10          health wounds should have immediate, appropriate, and  
11          consistent access to comprehensive mental health care.

12          (b) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of  
13          title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
14          end the following section:

15   **“§ 1720H. Mental health treatment for veterans who**  
16                           **served in classified missions**

17          “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS.—(1) The  
18          Secretary shall establish standards and procedures to en-  
19          sure that each covered veteran may access mental health  
20          care provided by the Secretary in a manner that fully ac-  
21          commodates the obligation of the veteran to not improv-  
22          erly disclose classified information.

23          “(2) The Secretary shall disseminate guidance to em-  
24          ployees of the Veterans Health Administration, including  
25          mental health professionals, on the standards and proce-

1 dures established under paragraph (1) and how to best  
2 engage covered veterans during the course of mental  
3 health treatment with respect to classified information.

4 “(b) IDENTIFICATION.—In carrying out this section,  
5 the Secretary shall ensure that a veteran may elect to  
6 identify as a covered veteran on an appropriate form.

7 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) The term ‘classified information’ means  
9 any information or material that has been deter-  
10 mined by an official of the United States pursuant  
11 to law, an Executive order, or regulation to require  
12 protection against unauthorized disclosure for rea-  
13 sons of national security.

14 “(2) The term ‘covered veteran’ means a vet-  
15 eran who—

16 “(A) is enrolled in the health care system  
17 established under section 1705(a) of this title;

18 “(B) is seeking mental health treatment;

19 and

20 “(C) in the course of serving in the Armed  
21 Forces, participated in a sensitive mission or  
22 served in a sensitive unit.

23 “(3) The term ‘sensitive mission’ means a mis-  
24 sion of the Armed Forces that, at the time at which  
25 a covered veteran seeks treatment, is classified.

1           “(4) The term ‘sensitive unit’ has the meaning  
2           given that term in section 130b(c)(4) of title 10.”.

3           (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
4           at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding  
5           after the item relating to section 1720G the following new  
6           item:

          “1720H. Mental health treatment for veterans who served in classified mis-  
          sions.”.

          Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend title  
38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Vet-  
erans Affairs to identify mental health care and suicide  
prevention programs and metrics that are effective in  
treating women veterans as part of the evaluation of such  
programs by the Secretary, and for other purposes.”.

