

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2816

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to increase access to hepatitis C testing for Vietnam-era veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2019

Ms. STEFANIK (for herself, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. RYAN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. COOK, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to increase access to hepatitis C testing for Vietnam-era veterans, 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 “Vietnam-Era Veterans
5 Hepatitis C Testing Enhancement Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HEPA-**
2 **TITIS C TESTING FOR VIETNAM-ERA VET-**
3 **ERANS.**

4 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Beginning not later than 180
5 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a one-year pilot
7 program to make hepatitis C testing available to covered
8 veterans at certain outreach events organized by veterans
9 service organizations.

10 (b) **SELECTION OF VETERAN INTEGRATED SERVICE**
11 **NETWORKS.**—The Secretary shall select five Veterans In-
12 tegrated Service Networks of the Department of Veterans
13 Affairs in which to carry out the pilot program as follows:

14 (1) Two such networks that predominantly
15 serve rural areas.

16 (2) Three such networks that predominantly
17 serve urban areas.

18 (c) **TERMINATION DATE.**—The pilot program de-
19 scribed under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date
20 that is one year after the date on which the Secretary be-
21 gins to carry out such program.

22 (d) **AUTOMATIC TRIGGER.**—If at least 350,000 vet-
23 erans are tested for hepatitis C by the termination date
24 described in subsection (c), the Secretary shall expand the
25 program to all Veterans Integrated Service Networks of

1 the Department not later than one year after the date on
2 which the pilot program ends.

3 (e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days
4 after the date on which the pilot program ends, the Sec-
5 retary shall submit to Congress a report on the pilot pro-
6 gram that includes—

7 (1) the number of covered veterans tested for
8 hepatitis C under the pilot program; and

9 (2) a list of resources needed to expand the
10 pilot program to all Veterans Integrated Service
11 Networks for the length of time necessary to test all
12 covered veterans for hepatitis C.

13 (f) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this Act, the
14 term “covered veteran” means a person who served in the
15 active military, naval, or air service between February 28,
16 1961, and May 7, 1975, and was discharged or released
17 therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable, re-
18 gardless of whether such person is enrolled in the patient
19 enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs
20 established under section 1705(a) of title 38, United
21 States Code.

22 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—No addi-
23 tional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements
24 of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using
25 amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated to the

- 1 Department of Veterans Affairs for the express purpose
- 2 of providing hepatitis C-related care.

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