

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7888

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the REACH VET program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2020

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico (for herself, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mrs. LEE of Nevada) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the REACH VET program.

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 “REACH VET report-
5 ing Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON REACH VET PROGRAM OF DEPART-**
7 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-

1 erans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the
2 REACH VET program.

3 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
4 (a) shall include the following:

5 (1) An assessment of the impact of the REACH
6 VET program on rates of suicide among veterans.

7 (2) An assessment of how limits within the
8 REACH VET program, such as caps on the number
9 of veterans who may be flagged as high risk, are ad-
10 justed for differing rates of suicide across the coun-
11 try.

12 (3) A detailed explanation, with evidence, for
13 why the conditions included in the model used by the
14 REACH VET program were chosen, including an
15 explanation as to why certain conditions, such as bi-
16 polar disorder II, were not included even though
17 they show a similar rate of risk for suicide as other
18 conditions that were included.

19 (4) An assessment of the feasibility of incor-
20 porating certain economic data held by the Veterans
21 Benefits Administration into the model used by the
22 REACH VET program, including financial data and
23 employment status, which research indicates may
24 have an impact on risk for suicide.

1 (c) REACH VET PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this sec-
2 tion, the term “REACH VET program” means the Recov-
3 ery Engagement and Coordination for Health—Veterans
4 Enhanced Treatment program of the Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs.

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