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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To improve coordination between the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration with respect to claims for compensation arising from military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. LURIA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To improve coordination between the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration with respect to claims for compensation arising from military sexual trauma, 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 “Improving Military
5 Sexual Trauma Claims Coordination Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND VET-**
2 **ERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION COORDI-**
3 **NATION FOR CERTAIN CLAIMS ARISING**
4 **FROM MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

5 (a) COORDINATED PROVISION OF MATERIALS.—

6 (1) REQUIRED MATERIALS.—During or imme-
7 diately after each covered event, and together with
8 each covered document, in a claim for compensation
9 arising from military sexual trauma experienced by
10 a covered individual, the Under Secretary for Bene-
11 fits of the Veterans Benefits Administration, in co-
12 ordination with the Under Secretary for Health of
13 the Veterans Health Administration, shall provide,
14 to the covered individual—

15 (A) outreach letters;

16 (B) information on the Veterans Crisis
17 Line;

18 (C) information on how to make an ap-
19 pointment with a mental health provider; and

20 (D) other information on available re-
21 sources relating to military sexual trauma (in-
22 cluding information on military sexual trauma
23 coordinators of the Veterans Health Adminis-
24 tration, mental health providers trained in mili-
25 tary sexual trauma issues, and peer support
26 specialists).

1 (2) **FORMAT OF MATERIALS.**—Materials de-
2 scribed in paragraph (1) may be provided electroni-
3 cally.

4 (b) **AUTOMATIC NOTIFICATION SYSTEM.**—In a claim
5 for compensation arising from military sexual trauma ex-
6 perienced by a veteran, if the veteran is enrolled in the
7 patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans
8 Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code,
9 and consents to the notification system under this sub-
10 section, the Under Secretary for Benefits shall automati-
11 cally notify the Under Secretary for Health shortly before
12 the veteran—

13 (1) participates in any covered event; or

14 (2) receives any covered document.

15 (c) **IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.**—The Secretary of
16 Veterans Affairs shall implement this Act not later than
17 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

18 (d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

19 (1) The term “compensation” has the meaning
20 given that term in section 101 of title 38, United
21 States Code.

22 (2) The term “covered document” means a de-
23 termination (including a rating determination) that
24 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provides to the

1 claimant in connection with a claim for compensa-
2 tion.

3 (3) The term “covered event” includes, with re-
4 spect to a claim for compensation—

5 (A) a medical examination under section
6 5103A of title 38, United States Code;

7 (B) a hearing before the Board of Vet-
8 erans’ Appeals under section 7107 of such title;
9 and

10 (C) any other event determined relevant by
11 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

12 (4) The term “covered individual” means a
13 former member of the Armed Forces (as that term
14 is defined in section 1720D of title 38, United
15 States Code) who elects to receive materials under
16 subsection (a).

17 (5) The term “military sexual trauma” has the
18 meaning given that term in section 1166 of title 38,
19 United States Code.

20 (6) The term “Veterans Crisis Line” means the
21 toll-free hotline for veterans established under sec-
22 tion 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code.