

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5317

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program to provide technical assistance to States and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes for the development of veteran suicide prevention activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. SLOTKIN) 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 program to provide technical assistance to States and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes for the development of veteran suicide prevention activities, 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 “VA Governors Chal-
5 lenge Expansion Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS GOVERNORS**
2 **CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) GOVERNORS CHALLENGE PROGRAM.—The Sec-
4 retary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a grant program
5 to be known as the “Governors Challenge Program” under
6 which the Secretary shall provide technical assistance to
7 States and American Indian and Alaska Native tribes for
8 the development of veteran suicide prevention activities.

9 (b) GOVERNORS CHALLENGE IMPLEMENTATION
10 GRANT PROGRAM.—

11 (1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Veterans
12 Affairs shall carry out a grant program, to be known
13 as the “Governors Challenge Implementation Grant
14 Program” under which the Secretary shall make
15 grants to eligible entities for the purpose of devel-
16 oping and implementing plans developed by the enti-
17 ties to prevent veteran suicides.

18 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of the
19 grant program under paragraph (1), an eligible enti-
20 ty is a State or an American Indian or Alaska Na-
21 tive tribe—

22 (A) that—

23 (i) in the case of a State, develops a
24 veteran suicide prevention plan, known as
25 a “Governors Challenge Action Plan”; or

1 (ii) in the case of an American Indian
2 or Alaska Native tribe, develops a veteran
3 suicide prevention plan; and

4 (B) that submits to the Secretary a pro-
5 posal for the implementation of such plan that
6 contains such information and assurances as
7 the Secretary may require.

8 (3) AWARD OF GRANT.—The Secretary shall
9 award grants under this subsection as follows:

10 (A) For fiscal year 2022, the Secretary
11 shall award grants to 20 eligible entities.

12 (B) For each of fiscal years 2023 and
13 2024, the Secretary shall award grants to 24 el-
14 igible entities.

15 (4) AMOUNT OF GRANT; LIMITATION.—

16 (A) AMOUNT.—The recipient of a grant
17 under this subsection shall receive an amount of
18 not more than \$500,000 for any fiscal year for
19 a maximum of three years.

20 (B) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—The
21 recipient of a grant under this subsection may
22 not use more than ten percent of the amount of
23 the grant for administrative costs.

24 (5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to
2 be appropriated to carry out this subsection—

3 (i) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

4 (ii) \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

5 and

6 (iii) \$14,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

7 (B) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER
8 AMOUNTS.—Amounts authorized to be appro-
9 priated pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be
10 in addition to any other amounts otherwise
11 available for the Governors Challenge Program.

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