

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 562
OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER-MEEKS OF IOWA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Improving Veterans
3 Access to Congressional Services Act of 2023”.

**4 SEC. 2. USE OF FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-
5 ERANS AFFAIRS BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon request of a Member of
7 Congress and subject to regulations prescribed under sub-
8 section (b), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall permit
9 the Member to use a facility of the Department of Vet-
10 erans Affairs (other than a facility of the National Ceme-
11 tery Administration) for the purposes of meeting with vet-
12 erans who are constituents of the Member. The Secretary
13 and the Administrator of General Services shall jointly
14 identify available spaces in facilities of the Department for
15 such purposes.

16 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
18 Affairs shall prescribe regulations regarding such use of

1 a facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs by Mem-
2 bers of Congress. Regulations prescribed under this sub-
3 section—

4 (1) shall require that a space within a facility
5 of the Department provided to a Member under sub-
6 section (a) is—

7 (A) available during normal business
8 hours;

9 (B) located in an area that is visible and
10 accessible to veterans who are constituents of
11 the Member; and

12 (C) subject to a rate of rent (payable from
13 the Member's Representational Allowance or
14 the Senator's Official Personnel and Office Ex-
15 pense Account, as the case may be) that is
16 similar to the rate charged by the Adminis-
17 trator of General Services for office space in the
18 area of the facility;

19 (2) may not prohibit a Member from adver-
20 tising the use by the Member of a space within a fa-
21 cility of the Department under subsection (a);

22 (3) shall comply with sections 7321 through
23 7326 of title 5, United States Code (commonly re-
24 ferred to as the "Hatch Act") and section
25 1.218(a)(14) of title 38, Code of Federal Regula-

1 tions (or successor regulation), by prohibiting activi-
2 ties including—

3 (A) campaigning in support of or opposi-
4 tion to any political office;

5 (B) statements or actions that solicit, sup-
6 port, or oppose any change to Federal law or
7 policy;

8 (C) any activity that interferes with secu-
9 rity or normal operation of the facility;

10 (D) photographing or recording a veteran
11 patient at such facility;

12 (E) photographing or recording a patient,
13 visitor to the facility, or employee of the De-
14 partment without the consent of such indi-
15 vidual; and

16 (F) photography or recording for the pur-
17 pose of political campaign materials;

18 (4) may not permit a Member of Congress to
19 use such a facility during the 60-day period pre-
20 ceding an election for Federal office in the jurisdic-
21 tion in which such facility is located; and

22 (5) may not unreasonably restrict use of a facil-
23 ity of the Department by a Member under sub-
24 section (a) if—

1 (A) there is space in such facility not in
2 regular use by personnel of the Department;
3 and

4 (B) use of such space shall not impede op-
5 erations of the Department in such facility.

