

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6291

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible entities for the purpose of carrying out Ask the Question Campaigns, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 8, 2023

Ms. BROWNLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible entities for the purpose of carrying out Ask the Question Campaigns, 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 “Have You Served Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR ASK THE QUESTION CAMPAIGNS.**

6 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs shall make grants to eligible entities for the pur-
8 pose of carrying out campaigns, to be known as “Ask the
9 Question Campaigns”, to encourage human services pro-

1 fessionals, State and local governments, and community
2 providers to ask consumers whether they or a loved one
3 have served in the Armed Forces.

4 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
5 a grant under subsection (a) shall use the grant—

6 (1) to develop or expand an Ask the Question
7 Campaign, under which the entity shall provide
8 training to human services professionals, State and
9 local governments, and community providers
10 about—

11 (A) how to appropriately ask consumers
12 whether they or a loved one have served in the
13 Armed Forces; and

14 (B) resources available for members of the
15 Armed Forces and veterans in their community
16 through the Department of Veterans Affairs
17 and other service providers to encourage the re-
18 cipients of such training to refer consumer to
19 the Department and other service providers, as
20 appropriate; and

21 (2) for associated program costs, including
22 staffing, technology, marketing and outreach mate-
23 rials, and convenings.

1 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this section,
2 an eligible entity is a State or an American Indian or Alas-
3 ka Native tribe—

4 (1) that—

5 (A) in the case of a State, develops a vet-
6 eran suicide prevention plan, known as a “Gov-
7 ernors Challenge Action Plan”; or

8 (B) in the case of an American Indian or
9 Alaska Native tribe, develops a veteran suicide
10 prevention plan; and

11 (2) that submits to the Secretary a proposal for
12 the implementation of such plan that contains such
13 information and assurances as the Secretary may re-
14 quire.

15 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
16 provide technical assistance to eligible entities that receive
17 grants under this section to support the development and
18 implementation of Ask the Question Campaigns. Such as-
19 sistance shall include—

20 (1) the provision of best practices acquired from
21 the experiences of other eligible entities carrying out
22 Ask the Question Campaigns;

23 (2) the provision of information on veterans re-
24 sources in the State where the eligible entity is lo-
25 cated;

1 (3) the provision of information about screening
2 protocols used by the Department for assessing sui-
3 cide risk and social determinants of health; and

4 (4) establishing key performance indicators for
5 the training provided under the Campaigns.

6 (e) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The Secretary may make
7 up to 25 grants under this section for each of fiscal years
8 2024, 2025, and 2026. Each such grant shall be in an
9 amount that does not exceed “\$200,000”.

10 (f) REPORTING.—

11 (1) GRANT RECIPIENTS.—As a condition of a
12 grant under this section, an eligible entity shall
13 agree to submit, by not later than the last day of
14 each fiscal year during which the entity receives a
15 grant, to the Secretary a report on the key perform-
16 ance indicators for the training provided using the
17 grant funds.

18 (2) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than
19 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
20 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on
21 the implementation of this section.

22 (3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 days
23 after the last day of a fiscal year for which the Sec-
24 retary makes a grant under this section, the Sec-
25 retary shall submit to Congress a report on the key

1 performance indicators for the training provided
2 under such grants.

3 (g) ASK THE QUESTION CAMPAIGNS FOR FEDERAL
4 AGENCIES.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Di-
5 rector of the Office of Management and Budget, shall de-
6 velop a plan to work with each Federal department and
7 agency to implement Ask the Question Campaigns, where
8 appropriate, through any social service or health care pro-
9 grams of the department or agency through which employ-
10 ees of the department or agency interact with individuals
11 receiving services and benefits.

12 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
13 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans
14 Affairs to carry out this section \$6,000,000 for each of
15 fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

16 (i) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term
17 “State” means each of the several States, Territories, and
18 possessions of the United States, the District of Columbia,
19 and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

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