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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to permit the voluntary transmission of patient contact information to certain religious or faith-based organizations by chaplains employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SELF introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to permit the voluntary transmission of patient contact information to certain religious or faith-based organizations by chaplains employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Enhancing Faith-
5 Based Support for Veterans Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. VOLUNTARY TRANSMISSION OF PATIENT CONTACT**
2 **INFORMATION TO CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS**
3 **BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
4 **CHAPLAINS.**

5 Subchapter III of chapter 17 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
7 lowing new section (and conforming the table of sections
8 at the beginning of such chapter accordingly):

9 **“§ 1730D. Voluntary transmission by Department**
10 **chaplains of patient contact information**
11 **to certain religious or faith-based organi-**
12 **zations**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a patient on
14 whom a chaplain employed by the Department has con-
15 ducted a spiritual assessment, such chaplain may, at the
16 election of the patient, transmit the contact information
17 of such patient to a non-Department religious or faith-
18 based organization specified by such patient.

19 “(b) SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT DEFINED.—In this
20 section, the term ‘spiritual assessment’ means an evalua-
21 tion of a patient entitled to receive medical treatment
22 under this chapter by a chaplain employed by the Depart-
23 ment to—

24 “(1) gather spiritual information about such
25 patient; and

- 1 “(2) inform the medical treatment plan of such
- 2 patient, if applicable.”.