

**[DISCUSSION DRAFT]**119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_To establish the National Task Force on Caregiving Youth.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**Mr. MCGARVEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_**A BILL**

To establish the National Task Force on Caregiving Youth.

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 “National Task Force  
5       on Caregiving Youth of Veterans Act.”

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) Caregiving youths provide unpaid care to  
9       veterans and members of the Armed Forces with  
10      disabilities, illnesses, or injuries.

1           (2) The responsibilities of caregiving youths  
2           often include physical assistance, emotional support,  
3           household management, and advocacy, which may  
4           adversely affect their education, long term mental  
5           and physical health, and economic opportunities.

6           (3) Research indicates that millions of youths  
7           across the United States who are engaged in  
8           caregiving roles face increased risks of academic dis-  
9           ruption, social isolation, and long-term health chal-  
10          lenges.

11          (4) Caregiving youths contribute significantly to  
12          the well-being of veterans and their families, reduc-  
13          ing institutional care needs and strengthening family  
14          cohesion.

15          (5) Existing Federal programs do not ade-  
16          quately identify or support caregiving youth, and  
17          there is no coordinated strategy across agencies to  
18          address their needs.

19          (6) A national task force is necessary to assess  
20          the scope of caregiving youths, support ongoing re-  
21          search, and develop policy and programmatic solu-  
22          tions to ensure they receive appropriate recognition  
23          and assistance.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON**  
2 **CAREGIVING YOUTH.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-  
5 erans Affairs shall establish the National Task Force on  
6 Caregiving Youth (referred to in this section as the “Task  
7 Force”).

8 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall be com-  
9 posed of not fewer than 15 members, including representa-  
10 tives designated by the Secretary concerned from each of  
11 the following Federal departments:

*【This membership will likely mean that the bill gets  
referred to each committee with jurisdiction over a dept.  
named below.】*

12 (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs, in-  
13 cluding a representative of each of the following:

14 (A) The Veteran Benefits Administration.

15 (B) The National Cemetery Administra-  
16 tion.

17 (B) The Veteran Health Administration.

18 (D) The Caregiver Support Program.

19 (E) The Veterans Experience Office.

20 (2) The Department of Health and Human  
21 Services, including a representative of each of the  
22 following:

1 (A) The Centers for Medicare and Med-  
2 icaid Services.

3 (B) The Administration for Community  
4 Living.

5 (C) The Indian Health Service.

6 (D) The Administration for Children and  
7 Families.

8 (3) The Department of Education, including a  
9 representative of each of the following:

10 (A) The Office of Elementary and Sec-  
11 ondary Education Programs (or successor of-  
12 fice).

13 (B) The Office of Special Education Pro-  
14 grams (or successor office).

15 (C) The Office of Student Support and Ac-  
16 countability (or successor office).

17 (4) The Department of Defense, including a  
18 representative of each of the following:

19 (A) The Department of Defense Education  
20 Activity.

21 (B) The Office of Military Community and  
22 Family Policy.

23 (C) The Defense Health Agency.

24 (c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-  
25 fairs shall designate the Under Secretary of Veterans Af-

1   fairs for Health or designee to serve as Chairperson of  
2   the Task Force.

3       (d) MEETINGS.—

4           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall meet  
5       at least once per quarter per calendar year.

6           (2) QUORUM.—Two-thirds of the members of  
7       the Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

8       (e) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force include  
9   the following:

10           (1) Not later than 180 days after the establish-  
11       ment of the Task Force, to seek to enter into an  
12       agreement with a federally funded research and de-  
13       velopment center to conduct a national study on  
14       caregiving youth. Such study, which shall be com-  
15       pleted not later than two years after the date of the  
16       enactment of this Act, shall include the following:

17           (A) An analysis of the prevalence, demo-  
18       graphics, and socio-economic impacts of  
19       caregiving youth.

20           (B) Short- and long-term effects on the  
21       education, employment, safety, and physical  
22       and mental health caregiving youth.

23           (C) Geographic disparities in access of  
24       caregiving youth to support services.

1 (D) Barriers to Federal, State, and local  
2 assistance programs for caregiving youth.

3 (2) Not later than 30 days after the establish-  
4 ment of the Task Force, to consult directly with  
5 stakeholders including—

6 (A) caregivers and survivors of veterans  
7 and members of the Armed Forces;

8 (B) representatives of nonprofit organiza-  
9 tions that specialize in military family support,  
10 caregiving youth initiatives, mental health advo-  
11 cacy, or educational access for caregivers; and

12 (C) relevant Federal advisory commissions.

13 (3) Not later than 180 days after the establish-  
14 ment of the Task Force, to develop targeted policy  
15 recommendations to Congress, and Federal, State,  
16 and local agencies on how the departments specified  
17 in subsection (b) can expand program support, re-  
18 sources, and accommodation for caregiving youths,  
19 including—

20 (A) school-based resources and scholarship  
21 programs;

22 (B) improved mental health support by in-  
23 tegrating trauma-informed care for caregiving  
24 youth within frameworks of such departments;

1 (C) creating support programs within each  
2 such department; and

3 (D) establishing financial assistance mod-  
4 els.

5 (4) To explore the feasibility and advisability of  
6 the development of a standardized database to—

7 (A) track the demographics and services  
8 used by caregiving youth;

9 (B) develop joint initiatives between rel-  
10 evant Federal agencies to provide comprehen-  
11 sive support; and

12 (C) align Federal programs with State and  
13 local resources to ensure no caregiving youth is  
14 overlooked.

15 (5) To formalize nonprofit engagement by es-  
16 tablishing a Caregiving Youth Advisory Council—

17 (A) composed of advocates for caregivers;

18 (B) that hosts quarterly roundtables to in-  
19 corporate front-line perspectives; and

20 (C) provide recommendations to relevant  
21 Federal agencies regarding the allocation or  
22 usage of Federal grant funding to support non-  
23 profits by expanding direct service programs for  
24 caregiving youth.

1           (6) To conduct a survey of all existing efforts  
2           of Federal agencies to support caregiving youth, in-  
3           cluding past and ongoing efforts to collect data, re-  
4           search, and other relevant information.

5           (f) **AUTHORITY TO CONTRACTING.**—The Task Force  
6           may enter into agreements with entities, including aca-  
7           demic institutions, research entities, and nonprofit organi-  
8           zations, to assist in conducting the national study and de-  
9           veloping policy recommendations.

10          (g) **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**—

11           (1) **INITIAL REPORT.**—Not later than one year  
12           after the date of enactment of this Act, the Task  
13           Force shall submit to Congress an initial report out-  
14           lining its research methodology and preliminary  
15           findings related to the duties of the Task Force, in-  
16           cluding stakeholder consultation, national study de-  
17           sign, and early policy considerations.

18           (2) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Not later than one  
19           year after submission of the initial report, and annu-  
20           ally thereafter through the termination under sub-  
21           section (h), the Task Force shall submit to Congress  
22           a report detailing progress on such duties, including  
23           updates, policy recommendations, federal collabora-  
24           tion efforts, nonprofit engagement, and survey re-  
25           sults.

1       (h) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate  
2 on the day that is five years after the date of the enact-  
3 ment of this Act.

4       (i) CAREGIVING YOUTH DEFINED.—In this section,  
5 the term “caregiving youth” means an individual under  
6 the age of 18

7           (1) who provides unpaid care, including physical  
8 assistance, emotional support, household manage-  
9 ment, medication oversight, or advocacy, to a vet-  
10 eran or member of the Armed Forces with a dis-  
11 ability, illness, or injury; and

12           (2) without regard to whether the individual  
13 qualifies for the Program of Comprehensive Assist-  
14 ance for Family Caregivers of the Department of  
15 Veterans Affairs.