

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 7816
OFFERED BY MR. LUTTRELL OF TEXAS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Clear Communication
3 for Veterans Claims Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF NOTICES THAT THE
5 SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SENDS
6 TO CLAIMANTS.**

7 (a) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
9 erans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with
10 an FFRDC for an assessment of notices that the Sec-
11 retary sends to claimants.

12 (b) ASSESSMENT.—An FFRDC that enters to an
13 agreement under subsection (a) shall submit to the Sec-
14 retary a written assessment of such notices. The assess-
15 ment shall include the following:

16 (1) The determination of the FFRDC, made in
17 consultation with covered entities, whether each such

1 notice may be feasibly altered to reduce paper con-
2 sumption by, and costs to, the Federal Government.

3 (2) The recommendations of the FFRDC re-
4 garding how the Secretary may, in compliance with
5 laws administered by the Secretary, make such no-
6 tices clearer to claimants, better organized, and
7 more concise.

8 (c) REPORT; IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 90
9 days after the Secretary receives the assessment under
10 subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

11 (1) submit to the Committees on Veterans' Af-
12 fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a
13 copy of such assessment; and

14 (2) implement the recommendations in the as-
15 sessment.

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) The term “FFRDC” means a federally
18 funded research and development center.

19 (2) The term “covered entities” includes—

20 (A) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

21 (B) an expert in laws administered by the
22 Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

23 (C) a veterans service organization recog-
24 nized under section 5902 of title 38, United
25 States Code; and

1 (D) an entity that advocates for veterans.

2 (3) The terms “claimant” and “notice” have
3 the meanings given such terms in section 5100 of
4 title 38, United States Code.

