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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, 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 “Housing our Military
5 Veterans Effectively Act of 2023” or the “HOME Act of
6 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. PER DIEM PAYMENTS PROVIDED BY THE SEC-**
2 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR SERV-**
3 **ICES FURNISHED TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

4 Section 2012 of title 38, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)—

7 (A) in paragraph (2)(B)—

8 (i) in clause (i)(II)(aa)(BB)—

9 (I) by striking “115 percent” and
10 inserting “133 percent”; and

11 (II) by inserting “, plus a per-
12 centage increase to such rate equal to
13 the percentage determined under sec-
14 tion 3564(a) of this title” after “of
15 that section”;

16 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “150”
17 and inserting “140”; and

18 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(iii) Subject to clause (iv), the Secretary may waive
21 the maximum rate for per diem payments under clause
22 (i)(II)(aa)(BB) or (ii) and provide such payments at a rate
23 that does not exceed 200 percent of the rate authorized
24 for State homes for domiciliary care under subsection
25 (a)(1)(A) of section 1741 of this title, as the Secretary

1 may increase from time to time under subsection (e) of
2 that section, if the Secretary—

3 “(I) determines that the grant recipient or eligi-
4 ble entity furnishes services to homeless veterans
5 in—

6 “(aa) a rural or highly rural area;

7 “(bb) an area with a high rate of suicide
8 among veterans; or

9 “(cc) an area with a high rate of homeless-
10 ness among veterans; and

11 “(II) notifies Congress of the need for such
12 waiver.

13 “(iv) The Secretary may not, pursuant to clause (iii),
14 waive the maximum rate described in such clause for more
15 than 10 percent of all grant recipients and eligible entities
16 in a fiscal year.”; and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following new
18 paragraph:

19 “(4) The Secretary may not provide more than
20 10,500 payments under this section in a fiscal year.”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
22 section:

23 “(f) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
24 after the date of the enactment of the HOME Act of 2023,
25 and not less frequently than twice each year thereafter,

1 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans'
2 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
3 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the rate
4 for per diem payments under this section that includes,
5 for each Veterans Integrated Service Network of the De-
6 partment, the following data:

7 “(1) The average rate for such a payment.

8 “(2) A list of locations where the rate for such
9 a payment is within 10 percent of the maximum rate
10 for such a payment authorized under this section.

11 “(3) The average length of stay by a veteran
12 participating in a program described in section
13 2011(a) of this title.”.

14 **SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO**
15 **CERTAIN LEASES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF**
16 **VETERANS AFFAIRS WEST LOS ANGELES**
17 **CAMPUS.**

18 Section 2 of West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016
19 (Public Law 114–226) is amended—

20 (1) in subsection (h)(1)—

21 (A) by striking “that is not in compliance
22 with such laws” both places it appears;

23 (B) by striking “certifies” and inserting
24 “submits”; and

1 (C) by striking “that all recommendations
2 included in the audit report or evaluation have
3 been implemented” and inserting “notice in
4 writing of whether the Secretary concurred or
5 did not concur with each recommendation in-
6 cluded in the audit report or evaluation and, in
7 the case of any nonconcurrence, the reasons for
8 such nonconcurrence”; and

9 (2) by adding the following new subsection:

10 “(n) CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding section
11 1302 of title 40, United States Code, section 8122 of title
12 38, United States Code, or any other provision of law, con-
13 sideration for a lease made pursuant to this Act may in-
14 clude consideration other than money.”.

15 **SEC. 4. TEMPORARY AUTHORIZATION FOR SECRETARY OF**
16 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO USE OF CERTAIN**
17 **FUNDS FOR IMPROVED FLEXIBILITY IN AS-**
18 **SISTANCE TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

19 (a) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
20 fairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made
21 available to the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry
22 out section 2011, 2012, 2031, or 2061 of title 38, United
23 States Code, to provide to a covered veteran, as the Sec-
24 retary determines necessary—

1 (1) assistance required for the safety and sur-
2 vival of the veteran (such as food, shelter, clothing,
3 blankets, and hygiene items);

4 (2) transportation required to support the sta-
5 bility and health of the veteran (such as transpor-
6 tation for appointments with service providers, the
7 conduct of housing searches, and the obtainment of
8 food and supplies);

9 (3) communications equipment and services
10 (such as tablets, smartphones, disposable phones,
11 and related service plans) required to support the
12 stability and health of the veteran (such as through
13 the maintenance of contact with service providers,
14 prospective landlords, and family members); and

15 (4) such other assistance as the Secretary de-
16 termines necessary.

17 (b) HOMELESS VETERANS ON DEPARTMENT OF VET-
18 ERANS AFFAIRS LAND.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may collabo-
20 rate, to the extent practicable, with one or more or-
21 ganizations to manage the use of land of the Depart-
22 ment of Veterans Affairs for homeless veterans for
23 living and sleeping.

24 (2) FORMS OF COLLABORATION.—Collaboration
25 under paragraph (1) may include the provision by ei-

1 ther the Secretary or the head of the organization
2 concerned of food services and security for property,
3 buildings, and other facilities owned or controlled by
4 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

5 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
7 shall submit to Congress a report that includes, with re-
8 spect to the period covered by such report—

9 (1) a statement, disaggregated by each medical
10 center of the Department of Veterans Affairs, of the
11 amount of funds under this section—

12 (A) each such medical center requested
13 from the Secretary; and

14 (B) to which the Secretary provided each
15 such medical center;

16 (2) data, disaggregated by each such medical
17 center, relating to how each such medical center
18 used amounts provided by the Secretary under this
19 section;

20 (3) the number of covered veterans to which the
21 Secretary provided assistance under this section;

22 (4) the total amount of assistance the Secretary
23 provided to covered veterans pursuant to subsection
24 (a)(3) for communications equipment, broken down
25 by the type of equipment provided;

1 (5) the total amount of assistance the Secretary
2 provided covered veterans pursuant to subsection
3 (a)(2) for ridesharing;

4 (6) the number of covered veterans who re-
5 ceived such assistance; and

6 (7) a description, for each rideshare used by a
7 covered veteran with such assistance, of the reasons
8 such covered veteran used such rideshare.

9 (d) SUNSET.—The authority under this section shall
10 terminate on September 30, 2024.

11 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “covered
12 veteran” means—

13 (1) a homeless veteran; and

14 (2) a veteran participating in the program car-
15 ried out under section 8(o)(19) of the United States
16 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)).