To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement between Under Secretary of Health and non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2019

Ms. UNDERWOOD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

MAY --, 2019

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]
[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 25, 2019]
A BILL

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct an assessment of all memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement between Under Secretary of Health and non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities relating to suicide prevention and mental health services.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans’ Care Quality
Transparency Act”.

SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF MEMO-
RANDA OF UNDERSTANDING AND MEMO-
RANDA OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNDER
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND NON-DEPART-
MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ENTITIES RE-
LATING TO SUICIDE PREVENTION AND MEN-
TAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 270 days after the
date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
of the United States shall conduct an assessment of the effec-
tiveness of all memoranda of understanding and memo-
randa of agreement entered into by the Under Secretary
of Veterans Affairs for Health and a non-Department of
Veterans Affairs entity relating to—

(1) suicide prevention activities and outreach;

and

(2) the provision or coordination of mental
health services during the five-year period preceding
the date of the enactment of this Act.
(b) CONTENTS OF ASSESSMENT.—The assessment required by subsection (a) shall include an assessment of—

(1) the size of the catchment area of each such entity;

(2) the staffing structures of such entities;

(3) any accreditation or licensure any such entity has obtained in relation to the services the entity provides;

(4) any variances in the subpopulations of veterans served by such entities;

(5) any limitations any such entity may face in carrying out its obligations under the memorandum of understanding or memorandum of agreement;

(6) the extent to which the Under Secretary provides oversight and tracks outcomes of such entities;

(7) any variations in the structure or requirements of the memoranda of understanding and memoranda of agreement;

(8) a breakdown of the percentage of such entities that serve—

(A) women veterans;

(B) minority veterans;

(C) veterans who are over the age of 55;

(D) veterans between the ages of 18 and 34;
(E) veterans who reside in United States insular areas; and

(F) veterans’ families; and

(9) any measures taken to ensure the secure exchange of data and information between such entities and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 270 days after the completion of the assessment under subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the results of the assessment.