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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID–19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mr. BOST) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID–19 vaccines to certain individuals, 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 “Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs Veterans’ and Caregivers’ COVID–19 Im-
6 munizations Now Expanded Act of 2021” or the “VA
7 VACCINE Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
2 **TO FURNISH COVID-19 VACCINES TO CER-**
3 **TAIN INDIVIDUALS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 may furnish a COVID-19 vaccine to a covered individual
6 during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

7 (b) VACCINES FURNISHED ABROAD.—In the case of
8 an individual who is a covered individual by reason of sub-
9 section (d)(2)(B), the Secretary may furnish a COVID-
10 19 vaccine, in a geographic location other than a State,
11 to such individual under subsection (a) regardless of
12 whether the Secretary determines that such vaccine is
13 needed for the treatment of a service-connected disability
14 of the veteran or as part of a rehabilitation program under
15 chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code.

16 (c) VETERAN AND ACCOMPANYING CAREGIVER PRI-
17 ORITY.—In furnishing COVID-19 vaccines, the Secretary
18 shall—

19 (1) prioritize the vaccination of veterans who
20 are enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the
21 Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705
22 of title 38, United States Code, veterans who fail to
23 so enroll but receive hospital care and medical serv-
24 ices pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of such section,
25 and accompanying caregivers over the vaccination of

1 covered individuals under this section not otherwise
2 described in this paragraph; and

3 (2) only furnish such vaccines to covered indi-
4 viduals under this section to the extent that such
5 vaccines are available.

6 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) The term “accompanying caregiver” means
8 a caregiver described in subparagraph (C), (D), or
9 (E) of paragraph (2) who is accompanying a veteran
10 as described in subsection (c)(1).

11 (2) The term “covered individual” means any of
12 the following:

13 (A) A veteran who is not eligible to enroll
14 in the patient enrollment system of the Depart-
15 ment of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of
16 title 38, United States Code.

17 (B) A veteran who is eligible for care
18 under section 1724 of such title.

19 (C) A family caregiver who is approved as
20 a provider of personal care services for an eligi-
21 ble veteran under the program of comprehensive
22 assistance for family caregivers under section
23 1720G(a) of such title.

24 (D) A caregiver of a covered veteran par-
25 ticipating in the program of general caregiver

1 support services under section 1720G(b) of
2 such title.

3 (E) A caregiver of a veteran participating
4 in the Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel
5 and Bladder Program, Home Based Primary
6 Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Pro-
7 gram of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

8 (3) The term “COVID–19” means the
9 Coronavirus disease 2019.

10 (4) The term “COVID–19 public health emer-
11 gency” means the public health emergency declared
12 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on
13 January 27, 2020, with respect to the Coronavirus
14 disease 2019.

15 (5) The term “State” has the meaning given
16 that term section 101 of title 38, United States
17 Code.