

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 6589  
OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN OF MICHIGAN**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Department of Vet-  
3 erans Affairs Chief Financial Officer Authority and Col-  
4 laboration Act of 2020”.

**5 SEC. 2. PLANS FOR ADDRESSING MATERIAL WEAKNESSES  
6                   AND PROVIDING SUFFICIENT AUTHORITY TO  
7                   CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF DEPARTMENT  
8                   OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

9       Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-  
10 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter for each of the  
11 three subsequent years, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,  
12 acting through the Chief Financial Officer of the Depart-  
13 ment of Veterans Affairs, shall submit to the appropriate  
14 congressional committees—

15           (1) an action plan, including steps, related  
16 timelines, costs, progress, status of implementation,  
17 and any updates for fully addressing the material  
18 weaknesses of the Department discussed in the Man-

1       agement's Discussion and Analysis section of the fi-  
2       nancial statements of the Department submitted to  
3       Congress under section 3515 of title 31, United  
4       States Code for the year preceding the year during  
5       which the report is submitted; and

6               (2) a plan outlining the steps the Secretary  
7       plans to take to address the recommendations of  
8       auditors related to entity-level internal controls and  
9       to provide sufficient authority to the Chief Financial  
10      Officer of the Department to carry out the require-  
11      ments of section 902 of title 31, United States Code.

12 **SEC. 3. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ATTESTATION.**

13      Concurrent with the submittal to Congress of the  
14      President's budget request under section 1105 of title 31,  
15      United States Code, for fiscal year 2022 and each of the  
16      next three subsequent fiscal years, the Chief Financial Of-  
17      ficer of the Department of Veterans affairs shall submit  
18      to the appropriate congressional committees each of the  
19      following:

20               (1) A certification of the responsibility of the  
21      Chief Financial Officer for internal financial controls  
22      of the Department.

23               (2) An attestation that the Chief Financial Of-  
24      ficer has collaborated sufficiently with the subordi-  
25      nate chief financial officers of the Department to be

1       confident in the financial projections included the  
2       budget request and supporting materials.

3       **SEC. 4. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITY FOR**  
4                                   **SUBORDINATE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICERS.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the respon-  
6       sibilities of the Chief Financial Officer of the Department  
7       of Veterans Affairs for the recruitment, selection, and  
8       training of personnel to carry out agency financial man-  
9       agement functions pursuant to section 902(a)(5)(C) of  
10      title 31, United States Code, the Chief Financial Officer  
11      or the designee of the Chief Financial Officer within the  
12      Office of Management of the Department shall—

13               (1) participate in the interview and selection  
14      panels of all subordinate chief financial officers; and

15               (2) give input into the performance plans and  
16      performance evaluations of all subordinate chief fi-  
17      nancial officers.

18      (b) TERMINATION.—The requirements under sub-  
19      section (a) shall terminate on the date that is five years  
20      after the date of the enactment of this Act.

21      **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

22      In this Act:

23               (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-  
24      mittees” means the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs  
25      of the Senate and the House of Representatives and

1 the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and  
2 the House of Representatives.

3 (2) The term “subordinate chief financial offi-  
4 cer”—

5 (A) includes—

6 (i) the chief financial officer of the  
7 Veterans Health Administration, the chief  
8 financial officer of the Office of Commu-  
9 nity Care within the Veterans Health Ad-  
10 ministration, and all chief financial officers  
11 of Veterans Integrated Service Networks  
12 within the Veterans Health Administra-  
13 tion;

14 (ii) the chief financial officer of the  
15 Veterans Benefits Administration and all  
16 chief financial officers of organizational  
17 subdivisions representing business lines  
18 within the Veterans Benefits Administra-  
19 tion;

20 (iii) the chief financial officer of the  
21 National Cemetery Administration; and

22 (iv) the chief financial officer of the  
23 Office of Information and Technology; and

24 (B) does not include the Inspector General.

