

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9924

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish standard practices for a grant or pilot program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs through the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 4, 2024

Mr. LANDSMAN (for himself, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Mr. KENNEDY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish standard practices for a grant or pilot program administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs through the Veterans Health Administration, 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 “What Works for Pre-
5 venting Veteran Suicide Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARD PRACTICES FOR A**
2 **GRANT OR PILOT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED**
3 **BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
4 **THROUGH THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINIS-**
5 **TRATION.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Section 527 of title 38,
7 United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), by inserting “(1)” before
9 “The Secretary,”;

10 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
11 paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
13 section (b):

14 “(b) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations that
15 establish standard practices that, unless otherwise prohib-
16 ited by law, shall apply to a grant program or pilot pro-
17 gram relating to suicide prevention or mental health car-
18 ried out through the Veterans Health Administration.
19 Such practices shall include the following:

20 “(1) The establishment of clear and measurable
21 objectives.

22 “(2) The development of a methodology and
23 plan to—

24 “(A) determine information necessary to
25 evaluate the program;

1 “(B) identify sources, methods, timing,
2 and frequency for collecting of such informa-
3 tion;

4 “(C) determine how such information will
5 be analyzed to evaluate the program’s imple-
6 mentation and performance and to identify les-
7 sons learned; and

8 “(D) identify criteria or standards for in-
9 forming decisions about whether the program
10 should be expanded, extended, or made perma-
11 nent.

12 “(3) The communication of program objectives,
13 assessment methodology, and evaluation plan with
14 entities determined relevant to the program by the
15 Secretary—

16 “(A) during the development of the pro-
17 gram;

18 “(B) at least 30 days prior to the begin-
19 ning of the program; and

20 “(C) throughout the term of the program.

21 “(4) At the conclusion of the program, the per-
22 formance of an evaluation of the program—

23 “(A) to validate lessons learned; and

24 “(B) to assess the generalizability of the
25 program.

1 “(5) The sharing of program results and best
2 practices with entities determined relevant to the
3 program by the Secretary.”.

4 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
6 Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations under section
7 527(b) of such title, as amended by subsection (a).

8 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The standard practices pre-
9 scribed in such regulations shall apply to a grant or pilot
10 program without regard to when such program was estab-
11 lished.

○