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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to collect certain demographic data of beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M____. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to collect certain demographic data of beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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. COLLECTION OF CERTAIN DEMOGRAPHIC**
4 **DATA OF BENEFICIARIES OF DEPARTMENT**
5 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) COLLECTION OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA.—

7 (1) COLLECTION.—Beginning not later than
8 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

1 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall collect the
2 covered demographic data of each beneficiary of the
3 Department of Veterans Affairs who accesses a pro-
4 gram or service of the Department.

5 (2) DEPARTMENT-WIDE UPDATE OF
6 RECORDS.—The Secretary shall ensure that each
7 record established or maintained by the Secretary
8 with respect to a beneficiary (including any such
9 record of the Veterans Benefits Administration, the
10 Veterans Health Administration, or the National
11 Cemetery Administration) is updated to include the
12 covered demographic data of the beneficiary col-
13 lected under paragraph (1), regardless of with which
14 element of the Department the record is associated
15 or in which electronic system or database the record
16 is stored.

17 (3) LIMITATION ON FREE TEXT FIELDS.—In
18 carrying out paragraph (1), and to the extent prac-
19 ticable, the Secretary shall limit the use of free text
20 fields on the form or questionnaire used to collect
21 covered demographic data, including by eliminating
22 such fields if a response may be indicated without
23 entering text.

24 (b) COVERED DEMOGRAPHIC DATA DEFINED.—In
25 this section, the term “covered demographic data” in-

1 cludes at a minimum, with respect to a beneficiary, the
2 following:

3 (1) Legal name.

4 (2) Preferred name.

5 (3) Race, including any American Indian or
6 Alaskan Native affiliation.

7 (4) Ethnicity.

8 (5) Religion or identification with a religious
9 group, if any, including whether the beneficiary iden-
10 tifies as not associating with a religion or religious
11 group.

12 (6) Tribal affiliation, if any, including the name
13 of the federally recognized Indian tribe in which the
14 beneficiary is enrolled or is a member, or with which
15 the beneficiary is affiliated, and evidence of such en-
16 rollment, membership, or affiliation through a docu-
17 ment issued by the federally recognized Indian tribe
18 (such as a tribal enrollment card or a certificate of
19 degree of Indian blood).

20 (7) Primary language spoken.

21 (8) Preferred communication method, including
22 whether the beneficiary prefers communication
23 through telephone, text message, email, or United
24 States Postal Service.

25 (9) Sexual orientation.

- 1 (10) Gender identity.
- 2 (11) Preferred pronouns.
- 3 (12) Marital status.
- 4 (13) Parental status, including whether the
- 5 beneficiary has any dependent children and whether
- 6 the custody of such children is joint or sole custody.
- 7 (14) Highest degree of education attained.
- 8 (15) Income level.