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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a review of the deaths of certain veterans who died by suicide, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. GARBARINO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a review of the deaths of certain veterans who died by suicide, 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 “Veteran Suicide Pre-  
5       vention Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REVIEW OF**  
2 **CERTAIN VETERANS' DEATHS BY SUICIDE.**

3 (a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months  
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
5 of Veterans Affairs shall complete a review of the deaths  
6 of all covered veterans who died by suicide during the five-  
7 year period preceding the date of the enactment of this  
8 Act. Such review shall include—

9 (1) the total number of veterans who died by  
10 suicide during the five-year period preceding the  
11 date of the enactment of this Act;

12 (2) a summary of such veterans that includes  
13 the age, gender, and race of such veterans;

14 (3) a comprehensive list of the medications pre-  
15 scribed to, and found in the systems of, such vet-  
16 erans at the time of their deaths, specifically listing  
17 any medications that carried a black box warning,  
18 were off-label, psychotropic, or carried warnings that  
19 included suicidal ideation;

20 (4) a summary of medical diagnoses by Depart-  
21 ment of Veterans Affairs physicians which led to the  
22 prescribing of the medications referred to in para-  
23 graph (3);

24 (5) the number of instances in which the vet-  
25 eran who died by suicide was concurrently on mul-

1        tiple medications prescribed by Department of Vet-  
2        erans Affairs physicians;

3            (6) the percentage of veterans who died by sui-  
4        cide who were not taking any medication prescribed  
5        by a Department of Veterans Affairs physician;

6            (7) the percentage of veterans referred to in  
7        paragraph (1) with combat experience or trauma  
8        (including, but not limited to military sexual trauma,  
9        traumatic brain injury, and post-traumatic stress);

10          (8) Veteran Health Administration facilities  
11        with markedly high prescription and suicide rates of  
12        patients being treated at those facilities;

13          (9) a description of Department of Veterans Af-  
14        fairs policies governing the prescribing of medica-  
15        tions referred to in paragraph (3);

16          (10) any patterns apparent to the Secretary  
17        based on the review; and

18          (11) recommendations for further action that  
19        would improve the safety and well-being of veterans.

20        (b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 30 days  
21        after the completion of the review required under sub-  
22        section (a), the Secretary shall—

23            (1) submit to Congress a report on the results  
24        of the review; and

25            (2) make such report publicly available.

1       (c) COVERED VETERAN.—In this section:

2           (1) The term “covered veteran” means any vet-  
3       eran who received hospital care or medical services  
4       furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs  
5       during the five-year period preceding the death of  
6       the veteran.

7           (2) The term “black box warning” means a  
8       warning displayed within a box in the prescribing in-  
9       formation for drugs that have special problems, par-  
10      ticularly ones that may lead to death or serious in-  
11      jury.