

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To improve oversight and evaluation of the mental health and suicide prevention media outreach campaigns of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. BROWN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To improve oversight and evaluation of the mental health and suicide prevention media outreach campaigns 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reach Every Veteran  
5 in Crisis Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EVALUATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**

7 **AFFAIRS MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PRE-**

8 **VENTION MEDIA OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF TARGETS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans  
2           Affairs shall establish targets to evaluate the effec-  
3           tiveness of the mental health and suicide prevention  
4           media outreach campaigns of the Department of  
5           Veterans Affairs in raising awareness about mental  
6           health and suicide prevention.

7           (2) USE OF METRICS.—

8           (A) IN GENERAL.—The targets established  
9           under paragraph (1) shall be based on metrics  
10          specific to different media types as follows:

11           (i) Metrics relating to social media  
12          shall include the following:

13                   (I) Impressions.

14                   (II) Reach.

15                   (III) Engagement rate.

16                   (IV) Such other metrics as the  
17          Secretary considers necessary.

18           (ii) Metrics relating to television shall  
19          include the following:

20                   (I) Nielsen ratings.

21                   (II) Such other metrics as the  
22          Secretary considers necessary.

23           (iii) Metrics relating to email shall in-  
24          clude the following:

25                   (I) Open rate.

1 (II) Response rate.

2 (III) Click rate.

3 (IV) Such other metrics as the  
4 Secretary considers necessary.

5 (B) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The Secretary  
6 shall periodically update the metrics under sub-  
7 paragraph (A) as more accurate metrics become  
8 available.

9 (3) CONSULTATION.—In establishing the tar-  
10 gets under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall con-  
11 sult with the following:

12 (A) Relevant stakeholders as determined  
13 by the Secretary.

14 (B) Mental health and suicide prevention  
15 experts.

16 (C) Such other persons as the Secretary  
17 considers appropriate.

18 (b) REPORTS ON OUTREACH TARGETS AND  
19 METRICS.—

20 (1) REPORT ON TARGETS AND METRICS.—Not  
21 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment  
22 of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-  
23 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the  
24 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of  
25 Representatives a report detailing the targets estab-

1 lished under subsection (a)(1) to evaluate the effec-  
2 tiveness of the mental health and suicide prevention  
3 media outreach campaigns of the Department in  
4 raising awareness about mental health and suicide  
5 prevention, including the metrics on which such tar-  
6 gets are based under subsection (a)(2).

7 (2) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year  
8 after the submittal of the report under paragraph  
9 (1), and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall sub-  
10 mit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the  
11 Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of  
12 the House of Representatives a report detailing—

13 (A) the progress of the Department in  
14 meeting the targets established under sub-  
15 section (a)(1); and

16 (B) a description of any action to be taken  
17 by the Department to modify mental health and  
18 suicide prevention media outreach campaigns if  
19 those targets are not being met.

20 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF OVERSIGHT PROCESS FOR DE-**  
21 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MENTAL**  
22 **HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION MEDIA**  
23 **OUTREACH CAMPAIGNS.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OVERSIGHT PROCESS.—Not  
25 later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this

1 Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a  
2 process to oversee the mental health and suicide preven-  
3 tion media outreach campaigns of the Department of Vet-  
4 erans Affairs.

5 (b) COMPONENTS OF OVERSIGHT PROCESS.—The  
6 process established under subsection (a) shall include a de-  
7 lineation of the roles and responsibilities of officials in  
8 leadership and contract oversight positions within the Of-  
9 fice of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention of the Vet-  
10 erans Health Administration, including during periods of  
11 staff turnover or program changes.

12 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON EXPENDITURES AND OBLIGATIONS OF**  
13 **FUNDS OF THE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH**  
14 **AND SUICIDE PREVENTION.**

15 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days  
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and semiannu-  
17 ally thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall sub-  
18 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a report  
19 detailing the expenditures of and obligations of funds by  
20 the Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention of the  
21 Veterans Health Administration during the period covered  
22 by the report.

23 (b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—  
24 In this section, the term “appropriate congressional com-  
25 mittees” means—

1           (1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the  
2           Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

3           (2) the Committee on Veterans Affairs and the  
4           Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
5           resentatives.

6 **SEC. 5. CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS.**

7           The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that  
8           each contract into which the Secretary enters to develop  
9           mental health and suicide prevention outreach media in-  
10          cludes a requirement that the contractor—

11           (1) track metrics used by the Secretary under  
12           section 2(a)(2); and

13           (2) not less frequently than quarterly, report  
14           such metrics to the Office of Mental Health and Sui-  
15           cide Prevention of the Veterans Health Administra-  
16           tion.