

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2822

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and maintain a suicide risk management and prevention and lethal means training course for certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 7, 2019

Ms. DUCKWORTH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and maintain a suicide risk management and prevention and lethal means training course for certain employees 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 “Post–9/11 Veteran
5 Suicide Prevention Counseling Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUICIDE RISK MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION**
2 **AND LETHAL MEANS TRAINING COURSE OF**
3 **THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) DEVELOPMENT.—

5 (1) INITIAL DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than
6 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
7 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation
8 with entities described in subsection (b), shall de-
9 velop a suicide risk management and prevention and
10 lethal means training course that is culturally appro-
11 priate and addresses the concerns of firearm owners.

12 (2) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The Secretary shall
13 update the training under this subsection not less
14 frequently than once every two years.

15 (b) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—The entities described in
16 this subsection are the following:

17 (1) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
18 ices.

19 (2) The National Institutes of Health.

20 (3) Public and private institutions of higher
21 education.

22 (4) Experts in the assessment, treatment, and
23 management of suicidal tendencies.

24 (5) Relevant professional associations.

1 (6) Gun ownership groups, in order to reduce
2 the stigma associated with firearm ownership and
3 safe storage.

4 (c) **TRAINEES; FREQUENCY OF TRAINING.**—The Sec-
5 retary shall provide the most recent training developed
6 under subsection (a) not less frequently than once every
7 five years to each employee of the Veterans Health Admin-
8 istration who regularly interacts with veterans in the
9 course of such employment.

10 (d) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The Secretary shall
11 make the training developed under subsection (a) available
12 to members of the public.

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