

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1798

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to promote and encourage collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher learning that provide administrative assistance to veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to promote and encourage collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher learning that provide administrative assistance to veterans.

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 “Veterans Collaboration
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON COLLABORATION WITH NON-**
2 **PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
4 shall carry out a two-year pilot program to promote and
5 encourage collaboration between the Department of Vet-
6 erans Affairs and nonprofit organizations and institutions
7 of higher learning. In carrying out the pilot program, the
8 Secretary shall emphasize collaboration with—

9 (1) veterans service organizations that provide
10 personnel with appropriate credentials to assist vet-
11 erans in filing claims and appeals with the Depart-
12 ment for disability compensation; and

13 (2) educational institutions that provide pro
14 bono legal assistance to veterans.

15 (b) METRICS.—The Secretary shall establish metrics
16 to determine which organizations and institutions provide
17 the best service to veterans and seek to encourage such
18 organizations and institutions to participate in the pilot
19 program.

20 (c) LOCATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the
21 pilot program in States with the highest veteran popu-
22 lations, as determined by the Secretary.

23 (d) USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.—In carrying out the
24 pilot program, the Secretary shall use social media to pro-
25 mote the collaboration efforts carried out under the pilot
26 program and to notify veterans of such collaborations.

1 Quarterly reports will be provided to members of the Vet-
2 erans' Affairs Committee that document the reach of the
3 social media efforts and the number of veterans who use
4 the program.

5 (e) REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the end
6 of a fiscal quarter, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
7 mittees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House
8 of Representatives a report on the pilot program, including
9 the use of social media under subsection (d) and the num-
10 ber of veterans who receive administrative assistance from
11 organizations and institutions through the program.

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