

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4282

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a training session and a counseling session in suicide prevention and lethal means tailored to veterans who served in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Ms. UNDERWOOD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a training session and a counseling session in suicide prevention and lethal means tailored to veterans who served in the Armed Forces after September 11, 2001, 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. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TRAIN-**  
4 **ING AND COUNSELING IN SUICIDE PREVEN-**  
5 **TION AND LETHAL MEANS.**

6 (a) TRAINING SESSION.—Not later than 180 days  
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary

1 of Veterans Affairs shall develop a suicide prevention and  
2 lethal means training session tailored to veterans who  
3 served in the Armed Forces any time after September 11,  
4 2001. Such training shall—

5 (1) be provided to all primary care practitioners  
6 of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to other  
7 Department employees, as directed by the Secretary,  
8 by not later than 270 days after the date of the en-  
9 actment of this Act and at least once every five  
10 years thereafter;

11 (2) be integrated into the whole health initiative  
12 of the Department; and

13 (3) be updated at least once every two years.

14 (b) COUNSELING SESSION.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 360 days  
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
17 retary shall develop a suicide prevention and lethal  
18 means counseling session tailored to veterans who  
19 served in the Armed Forces any time after Sep-  
20 tember 11, 2001. Such counseling shall—

21 (A) be provided by primary care practi-  
22 tioners of the Department to—

23 (i) all veterans enrolled in the patient  
24 enrollment system under section 1705 of  
25 title 38, United States Code, who served in

1 the Armed Forces after September 11,  
2 2001; and

3 (ii) other veterans, as determined by  
4 the Secretary;

5 (B) be provided during the veterans' first  
6 primary care appointment following develop-  
7 ment of the counseling session and subsequently  
8 as clinically appropriate; and

9 (C) be integrated into the whole health ini-  
10 tiative of the Department.

11 (2) LETHAL MEANS COUNSELING.—In this sub-  
12 section, the term “lethal means counseling” means  
13 counseling designed to—

14 (A) assess whether a person at risk for sui-  
15 cide has access to lethal means; and

16 (B) work with such person and the family  
17 and support system of such person to limit the  
18 access of the person to lethal means until the  
19 person is no longer at elevated risk of suicide.

20 (c) CONSULTATION.—In developing the training and  
21 counseling sessions required by this section, the Secretary  
22 shall consult with the Secretary of Health and Human  
23 Services, the National Institutes of Health, public and pri-  
24 vate institutions of higher education, educators, experts in

- 1 suicide assessment, treatment, and management, and af-
- 2 fected professional associations.

