

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5739

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service-connection of disabilities relating to blast exposures with respect to disability compensation payments by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2020

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, and Ms. JAYAPAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service-connection of disabilities relating to blast exposures with respect to disability compensation payments by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Blast Exposure Protec-
5 tion Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE-CONNECTION OF DIS-**
2 **ABILITIES RELATING TO BLAST EXPOSURE.**

3 Section 1112 of title 38, United States Code, is
4 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(d) For the purposes of section 1110 of this title,
7 and subject to the provisions of section 1113 of this title,
8 an injury or illness of a veteran that is associated with
9 a blast exposure by the veteran during active military,
10 naval, or air service shall be considered to have been in-
11 curred in or aggravated during such active military, naval,
12 or air service, notwithstanding that there is no record of
13 evidence of such injury or illness during a period of such
14 service.”.

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