

Calendar No. _____

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. 2333****[Report No. 119-_____]**

To require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit supplementation of health records of deceased veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 17, 2025

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

_____ (legislative day, _____), _____

Reported by _____, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit supplementation of health records of deceased veterans, 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 “Health Records En-
5 hancement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SUPPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH RECORDS OF DE-**
2 **CEASED VETERANS.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
5 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly take
6 actions necessary to ensure that the health records of the
7 Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans
8 Affairs may be updated with observed health conditions
9 and other relevant health information of a deceased en-
10 rollee by—

11 (1) an individual designated by such deceased
12 enrollee; or

13 (2) if no such individual is designated, an im-
14 mediate family member of such deceased enrollee.

15 (b) **DESIGNATION.**—The Secretary of Defense and
16 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly provide for
17 a process by which an individual may make a designation
18 for purposes of subsection (a)(1).

19 (c) **NO MODIFICATION OF HEALTH INFORMATION.**—
20 Any update under subsection (a) shall supplement infor-
21 mation contained in the health records of a deceased en-
22 rollee and shall not modify information contained in such
23 records.

24 (d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1 (1) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—The term
2 “immediate family member”, with respect to a de-
3 ceased enrollee, means—

4 (A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or
5 adult child of the individual; or

6 (B) an adult person to whom the indi-
7 vidual stands in loco parentis.

8 (2) DECEASED ENROLLEE.—The term “de-
9 ceased enrollee” means any individual who, at the
10 time of his or her death—

11 (A) was enrolled in the patient enrollment
12 system of the Department of Veterans Affairs
13 established and operated under section 1705(a)
14 of title 38, United States Code; or

15 (B) was entitled to care under the
16 TRICARE program, as defined in section 1072
17 of title 10, United States Code.

18 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

19 *This Act may be cited as the “Health Records En-*
20 *hancement Act”.*

21 **SEC. 2. SUPPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH RECORDS OF DE-**
22 **CEASED VETERANS.**

23 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than one year after the*
24 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense*
25 *and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly take ac-*

1 *tions necessary to ensure that the health records of the De-*
2 *partment of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs*
3 *may be updated with observed health conditions and other*
4 *relevant health information of a deceased enrollee by—*

5 *(1) an individual designated by such deceased*
6 *enrollee; or*

7 *(2) if no such individual is designated, an im-*
8 *mediate family member of such deceased enrollee.*

9 *(b) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of Defense and the*
10 *Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly provide for a*
11 *process by which an individual may make a designation*
12 *for purposes of subsection (a)(1).*

13 *(c) NO MODIFICATION OF HEALTH INFORMATION.—*
14 *Notwithstanding the privacy regulations promulgated*
15 *under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability*
16 *Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–191), at part 160 of title 45,*
17 *Code of Federal Regulations, and subparts A, C, and E of*
18 *part 164 of such title (or any successor regulations), any*
19 *update under subsection (a) shall supplement information*
20 *contained in the health records of a deceased enrollee and*
21 *shall not modify information contained in such records.*

22 *(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

23 *(1) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—The term*
24 *“immediate family member”, with respect to a de-*
25 *ceased enrollee, means—*

