

Calendar No. _____

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 1665**

[Report No. 119-_____]]

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure veterans of secrecy oath programs receive the full benefits they have earned, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 7, 2025

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

_____ (legislative day, _____), _____

Reported by Mr. MORAN, with an amendment

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure veterans of secrecy oath programs receive the full benefits they have earned, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Obligations to Aber-
3 deen’s Trusted Heroes Act of 2026” or the “OATH Act
4 of 2026”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRECY OATH PROGRAM.**

6 Section 5100 of title 38, United States Code, is
7 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
8 graph:

9 “(3) The term ‘secrecy oath program’ means a
10 United States Government program in which partici-
11 pants are required to sign a non-disclosure agree-
12 ment preventing the disclosure of any information
13 regarding the program under penalty of court-mar-
14 tial or criminal punishment.”.

15 **SEC. 3. NOTICE TO VETERANS OF SECRECY OATH PRO-**
16 **GRAMS REGARDING BENEFITS.**

17 (a) NOTICE REQUIRED.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6303 of title 38,
19 United States Code, is amended—

20 (A) by redesignating subsections (c), (d),
21 and (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respec-
22 tively; and

23 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the
24 following new subsection (c):

25 “(c) NOTICE TO VETERANS OF SECRECY OATH PRO-
26 GRAMS.—(1) Not later than 90 days after the date on

1 which participants in a secrecy oath program are released
2 from the oath taken under such program; the Secretary
3 shall—

4 “(A) identify the veterans who participated in
5 the program;

6 “(B) notify each such veteran of all benefits
7 and services under laws administered by the Depart-
8 ment for which the veteran may be eligible; and

9 “(C) distribute the information described in
10 subsection (d)(1) as required by such subsection.

11 “(2) If the Secretary identifies any veterans who are
12 entitled to notice under paragraph (1) and did not receive
13 such notice, the Secretary shall, not later than 90 days
14 after the date of any such identification—

15 “(A) notify each such veteran of all benefits
16 and services under laws administered by the Depart-
17 ment for which the veteran may be eligible; and

18 “(B) distribute the information described in
19 subsection (d)(1) as required by such subsection.

20 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘secrecy oath pro-
21 gram’ has the meaning given that term in section 5100
22 of this title.”.

23 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 6303
24 of such title is further amended—

1 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “through
2 (d)” and inserting “through (e)”; and

3 (B) in subsection (e), as redesignated by
4 subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking “subsections
5 (b) and (e)” and inserting “subsections (b), (c),
6 and (d)”.

7 (b) EDGEWOOD ARSENAL PROGRAM.—Not later than
8 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
9 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

10 (1) identify the veterans who participated in the
11 secrecy oath program at Edgewood Arsenal at Aber-
12 deen Proving Ground, Maryland, at any time during
13 the period beginning on January 1, 1948, and end-
14 ing on December 31, 1975;

15 (2) notify each such veteran of all benefits and
16 services under laws administered by the Department
17 of Veterans Affairs for which the veteran may be eli-
18 gible; and

19 (3) distribute the information described in sec-
20 tion 6303(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as
21 amended by subsection (a), as required by such sec-
22 tion.

1 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES OF AWARDS OF DISABILITY COM-**
2 **PENSATION FOR PARTICIPANTS IN SECRECY**
3 **OATH PROGRAMS.**

4 Section 5110(b) of title 38, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
6 graph:

7 “(5)(A) The effective date of an award of disability
8 compensation to a veteran described in subparagraph (B)
9 shall be the day following the date of the veteran’s dis-
10 charge or release.

11 “(B) A veteran described in this subparagraph is a
12 veteran who—

13 “(i) participated in the secrecy oath program at
14 Edgewood Arsenal at Aberdeen Proving Ground,
15 Maryland, at any time during the period beginning
16 on January 1, 1948, and ending on December 31,
17 1975; or

18 “(ii) participated in any other secrecy oath pro-
19 gram not described in clause (i).”.

20 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

21 *This Act may be cited as the “Obligations to Aber-*
22 *deen’s Trusted Heroes Act of 2026” or the “OATH Act of*
23 *2026”.*

24 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRECY OATH PROGRAM.**

25 *Section 5100 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-*
26 *ed by adding at the end the following new paragraph:*

1 “(3) *The term ‘secrecy oath program’ means a*
2 *United States Government program in which partici-*
3 *pants are required to sign a non-disclosure agreement*
4 *preventing the disclosure of any information regard-*
5 *ing the program under penalty of court-martial or*
6 *criminal punishment.”.*

7 **SEC. 3. NOTICE TO VETERANS OF SECRECY OATH PRO-**
8 **GRAMS REGARDING BENEFITS.**

9 *(a) NOTICE REQUIRED.—*

10 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6303 of title 38,*
11 *United States Code, is amended—*

12 *(A) by redesignating subsections (c), (d),*
13 *and (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respec-*
14 *tively; and*

15 *(B) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-*
16 *lowing new subsection (c):*

17 “(c) **NOTICE TO VETERANS OF SECRECY OATH PRO-**
18 **GRAMS.—***(1) Not later than 180 days after the date on*
19 *which participants in a secrecy oath program are released*
20 *from the oath taken under such program (as determined*
21 *by the Secretary of Defense), the Secretary shall—*

22 “(A) *identify the veterans who participated in*
23 *the program;*

1 “(B) notify each such veteran of all benefits and
2 services under laws administered by the Secretary for
3 which the veteran may be eligible; and

4 “(C) distribute the information described in sub-
5 section (d)(1) as required by such subsection.

6 “(2) If the Secretary identifies any veterans who are
7 entitled to notice under paragraph (1) and did not receive
8 such notice, the Secretary shall, not later than 180 days
9 after the date of any such identification—

10 “(A) notify each such veteran of all benefits and
11 services under laws administered by the Secretary for
12 which the veteran may be eligible; and

13 “(B) distribute the information described in sub-
14 section (d)(1) as required by such subsection.

15 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘secrecy oath program’
16 has the meaning given that term in section 5100 of this
17 title.”.

18 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 6303
19 of such title is further amended—

20 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “through
21 (d)” and inserting “through (e)”; and

22 (B) in subsection (e), as redesignated by
23 subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking “subsections (b)
24 and (c)” and inserting “subsections (b), (c), and
25 (d)”.

1 **(b) EDGEWOOD ARSENAL PROGRAM.—**

2 **(1) IN GENERAL.—***Not later than 180 days after*
3 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of*
4 *Veterans Affairs shall—*

5 **(A)** *identify the veterans who participated*
6 *in the secrecy oath program at Edgewood Arse-*
7 *nal at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, at*
8 *any time during the period beginning on Janu-*
9 *ary 1, 1955, and ending on December 31, 1975;*

10 **(B)** *notify each such veteran of all benefits*
11 *and services under laws administered by the Sec-*
12 *retary for which the veteran may be eligible; and*

13 **(C)** *distribute the information described in*
14 *section 6303(d)(1) of title 38, United States*
15 *Code, as amended by subsection (a), as required*
16 *by such section.*

17 **(2) REPORTING.—***Not later than 180 days after*
18 *the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less fre-*
19 *quently than once every 180 days thereafter until the*
20 *Secretary certifies to the Committee on Veterans' Af-*
21 *airs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans'*
22 *Affairs of the House of Representatives that the ac-*
23 *tivities of the Integrated Project Team established by*
24 *the Secretary to identify and address matters relating*
25 *to individuals who participated in testing conducted*

1 *claim for disability compensation, not described in*
2 *clause (i).”.*