

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6064

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for a review of examinations, furnished by the Secretary, to individuals who submit claims to the Secretary for compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, for mental and physical conditions linked to military sexual trauma.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 19, 2021

Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. BOST, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. ELLZEY, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for a review of examinations, furnished by the Secretary, to individuals who submit claims to the Secretary for compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, for mental and physical conditions linked to military sexual trauma.

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. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF ASSESSMENTS BY**
2 **THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF**
3 **MENTAL AND PHYSICAL CONDITIONS LINKED**
4 **TO MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA FOR PUR-**
5 **POSES OF AWARDING DISABILITY COM-**
6 **PENSATION.**

7 (a) AGREEMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
9 erans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with
10 the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and
11 Medicine (in this Act referred to as the “National Acad-
12 emies”) to perform the services covered by this section.

13 (b) COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW.—Under an agreement
14 between the Secretary and the National Academies under
15 this section, the National Academies shall conduct a com-
16 prehensive review of examinations, furnished by the Sec-
17 retary to individuals who submit claims to the Secretary
18 for compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United
19 States Code, for mental and physical conditions linked to
20 military sexual trauma (in this Act referred to as “MST”),
21 for the purpose of assessing the impairments of such indi-
22 viduals arising from MST. The review carried out pursu-
23 ant to paragraph (1) shall include the following elements:

24 (1) A determination of the adequacy of tools
25 and protocols used by the Secretary to provide ex-
26 aminations described in this subsection, including—

1 (A) the Disability Benefits Questionnaires;

2 (B) the Department's schedule of rating
3 disabilities;

4 (C) consideration of whether certain condi-
5 tions linked to MST should require referral for
6 both a mental health examination and a phys-
7 ical health examination; and

8 (D) the necessity of internal pelvic exami-
9 nations to diagnose certain conditions linked to
10 MST, and whether alternatives to such exami-
11 nations could be considered if a veteran objects
12 to or cannot complete such examination.

13 (2) A determination of what credentials and
14 training are necessary for a health care specialist or
15 provider to perform such examinations related to
16 physical conditions linked to MST, for men and for
17 women, including—

18 (A) sexual dysfunction;

19 (B) pelvic pain;

20 (C) pelvic dysfunction;

21 (D) musculoskeletal disabilities; and

22 (E) cardiovascular conditions (including
23 stroke).

24 (3) A determination of what credentials and
25 training are necessary for a health care specialist or

1 provider to perform such examinations related to
2 mental health conditions linked to MST, for men
3 and for women.

4 (4) An assessment of the quality of MST train-
5 ing for individuals who perform such examinations,
6 including recommendations for improvements to
7 such training.

8 (c) REPORTS.—

9 (1) REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—
10 Not later than 540 days after the date on which the
11 Secretary enters into an agreement under subsection
12 (a), the National Academies shall submit to the
13 Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
14 House of Representatives a report on the com-
15 prehensive review conducted under subsection (b).
16 Such report shall include the following elements:

17 (A) The findings of the National Acad-
18 emies under subsection (b).

19 (B) Recommendations of the National
20 Academies regarding legislative or administra-
21 tive action to improve of the adjudication of
22 claims described in subsection (b).

23 (2) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.—Not later
24 than 90 days after submission of the report under
25 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the

1 Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
2 Representatives and the Senate a report on the
3 plans of the Secretary to carry out any action based
4 on the findings and recommendations of the Na-
5 tional Academies.

