

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 682

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish a vaccine for COVID–19 to certain individuals who are not enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10, 2021

Mr. TESTER (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. COONS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. ROUNDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish a vaccine for COVID–19 to certain individuals who are not enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department 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 “Strengthening and  
5 Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize all  
6 Veterans and Every Spouse Act” or the “SAVE LIVES  
7 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
2 **TO FURNISH COVID-19 VACCINE TO CERTAIN**  
3 **INDIVIDUALS NOT ENROLLED IN PATIENT**  
4 **ENROLLMENT SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT OF**  
5 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
7 may furnish a vaccine for COVID-19 to a covered indi-  
8 vidual during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

9 (b) PRIORITIZATION.—In furnishing vaccines for  
10 COVID-19 under the laws administered by the Secretary,  
11 the Secretary shall—

12 (1) prioritize the vaccination of veterans who  
13 are enrolled in the patient enrollment system, vet-  
14 erans who receive hospital care and medical services  
15 pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of section 1705 of title  
16 38, United States Code, and accompanying care-  
17 givers of such veterans before the vaccination of cov-  
18 ered individuals not otherwise described in this para-  
19 graph; and

20 (2) only furnish vaccines for COVID-19 to cov-  
21 ered individuals under this section to the extent that  
22 such vaccines are available.

23 (c) TIMING OF VACCINES PROVIDED TO SPOUSES OF  
24 VETERANS.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary may  
25 offer a vaccine for COVID-19 under this section to the  
26 spouse of a veteran to permit the provision of the vaccine

1 to the spouse near the same time that the veteran receives  
2 such vaccine from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

3 (d) VACCINE ALLOCATION.—It is the sense of Con-  
4 gress that, to the extent practicable based on the current  
5 national supply chain, the Secretary of Health and Human  
6 Services should adjust the allocation for the Department  
7 of Veterans Affairs for the vaccine for COVID–19 based  
8 on the additional eligibility of covered individuals under  
9 this section.

10 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) ACCOMPANYING CAREGIVER.—The term  
12 “accompanying caregiver” means a caregiver de-  
13 scribed in subparagraph (D), (E), or (F) of para-  
14 graph (2) who is accompanying a veteran who is re-  
15 ceiving a vaccine for COVID–19 furnished by the  
16 Department.

17 (2) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered  
18 individual” means any of the following individuals:

19 (A) A veteran who is not eligible to enroll  
20 in the patient enrollment system.

21 (B) A veteran who is eligible for care  
22 under section 1724 of title 38, United States  
23 Code.

24 (C) A beneficiary under section 1781 of  
25 such title.

1 (D) A family caregiver of a veteran partici-  
2 pating in the program of comprehensive assist-  
3 ance for family caregivers under section  
4 1720G(a) of such title.

5 (E) A caregiver of a veteran participating  
6 in the program of general caregiver support  
7 services under section 1720G(b) of such title.

8 (F) A caregiver of a veteran participating  
9 in the Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel  
10 and Bladder Program, Home Based Primary  
11 Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Pro-  
12 gram of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

13 (G) A spouse of a veteran.

14 (3) COVERED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—  
15 The term “covered public health emergency” means  
16 an emergency with respect to COVID–19 declared  
17 by a Federal, State, or local authority.

18 (4) COVID–19.—The term “COVID–19”  
19 means the coronavirus disease 2019.

20 (5) PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYSTEM.—The term  
21 “patient enrollment system” means the system of  
22 annual patient enrollment of the Department of Vet-  
23 erans Affairs established and operated under section  
24 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.

1           (6) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the  
2           meaning given that term in section 101(2) of title  
3           38, United States Code.

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