

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8758

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report on changes in the use of the beneficiary travel program of the Department of Veterans Affairs during COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2020

Ms. ADAMS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit a report on changes in the use of the beneficiary travel program of the Department of Veterans Affairs during COVID–19, 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 “Studying Veterans Ac-
5 cess to Care During COVID–19 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON CHANGES IN**
2 **USE OF BENEFICIARY TRAVEL PROGRAM OF**
3 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of
6 the United States shall prepare and submit to the Com-
7 mittees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representa-
8 tives and the Senate a report on the following:

9 (1) The year-over-year change in the number of
10 payments and allowances provided pursuant to the
11 beneficiary travel program of the Department of
12 Veterans Affairs under section 111 of title 38,
13 United States Code during the COVID–19 public
14 health emergency period.

15 (2) The year-over-year change in the total dol-
16 lar amount of payments and allowances provided
17 pursuant to such program during such period.

18 (3) The anticipated costs associated with ex-
19 panding eligibility to receive payments and allow-
20 ances pursuant to such program to veterans whose
21 total annual income is below 400 percent of the pov-
22 erty line.

23 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

24 (1) The term “COVID–19 public health emer-
25 gency period” means the period during which there
26 exists the public health emergency declared by the

1 Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant
2 to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42
3 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, entitled “Deter-
4 mination that a Public Health Emergency Exists
5 Nationwide as the Result of the 2019 Novel
6 Coronavirus” (including any renewal of such dec-
7 laration pursuant to such section).

8 (2) The term “poverty line” has the meaning
9 given such term in section 673 of the Community
10 Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902).

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