

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 179

To require the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to the Congress a joint report addressing the question of United States Government responsibility for providing benefits and services to disabled individuals who served with certain voluntary organizations that provided significant assistance to the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam era.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mrs. COLLINS of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on National Security

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to the Congress a joint report addressing the question of United States Government responsibility for providing benefits and services to disabled individuals who served with certain voluntary organizations that provided significant assistance to the Armed Forces of the United States stationed in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam era.

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. REPORT REGARDING THE PROVISION OF BENE-**
2 **FITS AND SERVICES TO DISABLED OVERSEAS**
3 **VOLUNTEER SUPPORT PERSONNEL FOR THE**
4 **ARMED FORCES DURING THE VIETNAM ERA.**

5 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to provide
6 a basis for the executive branch and the Congress to evalu-
7 ate the question of whether the United States Government
8 should bear any responsibility for providing overseas vol-
9 unteer support personnel with Federal and other benefits
10 and services (including health care and monetary com-
11 pensation) in connection with disabilities which may be re-
12 lated to their experiences during their service in the Re-
13 public of Vietnam in support of the activities of the Armed
14 Forces of the United States during the Vietnam era.

15 (b) REPORT.—(1) In order to carry out the purpose
16 described in subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense, the
17 Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Sec-
18 retary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly prepare a report
19 on the question described in that subsection. The report
20 shall include—

21 (A) a description of the benefits and services (if
22 any) that should be provided to such overseas volun-
23 teer support personnel;

24 (B) various alternative approaches to providing
25 such benefits and services (together with comments

1 on the appropriateness and the advantages and dis-
2 advantages of each alternative approach); and

3 (C) any recommendations by such officials for
4 legislative and administrative action to establish a
5 program for providing such benefits and services to
6 such overseas volunteer support personnel.

7 (2) The report shall be submitted to the President
8 and Congress not later than 180 days after the date of
9 the enactment of this Act.

10 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For the purpose of this Act:

11 (1) The term “overseas volunteer support per-
12 sonnel” means individuals who, for a period of at
13 least 30 days during the Vietnam era, served in the
14 Republic of Vietnam as employees of, or volunteer
15 workers with, a voluntary organization determined
16 by the Secretary of Defense to be an organization
17 that provided significant assistance to the Armed
18 Forces of the United States in the Republic of Viet-
19 nam during the Vietnam era. Such term does not in-
20 clude members of the Armed Forces.

21 (2) The term “Armed Forces” has the meaning
22 given such term in section 101(10) of title 38, Unit-
23 ed States Code.

1 (3) The term “Vietnam era” has the meaning
2 given such term in section 101(29) of title 38, Unit-
3 ed States Code.

