

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1594

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for unlimited eligibility for health care for mental illnesses for veterans of combat service during certain periods of hostilities and war.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2019

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CRAPO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for unlimited eligibility for health care for mental illnesses for veterans of combat service during certain periods of hostilities and war.

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 “Show Esteem and Re-
5 spect for Veterans by Increasing Care and Equity Act”
6 or the “SERVICE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. UNLIMITED ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH CARE FOR**
2 **MENTAL ILLNESSES FOR VETERANS OF COM-**
3 **BAT SERVICE DURING CERTAIN PERIODS OF**
4 **HOSTILITIES AND WAR.**

5 (a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Section 1710(e)(1) of title 38,
6 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
7 following new subparagraph:

8 “(G) Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3), a vet-
9 eran who served on active duty in a theater of combat
10 operations (as determined by the Secretary in consultation
11 with the Secretary of Defense) during World War II, the
12 Korean conflict, the Vietnam era, the Persian Gulf War,
13 Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom,
14 or any other period of war after the Persian Gulf War,
15 or in combat against a hostile force during a period in
16 which hostilities are occurring in that area, is eligible for
17 hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care
18 under subsection (a)(2)(F) for any mental illness, notwith-
19 standing that there is insufficient medical evidence to con-
20 clude that such illness is attributable to such service.”.

21 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Subparagraph (G) of section
22 1710(e)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as added by
23 subsection (a), shall apply with respect to hospital care,
24 medical services, and nursing home care provided on or
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act.