One Hundred Seventeenth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Sunday,
the third day of January, two thousand and twenty-one

An Act

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID–19 vaccines to
certain individuals, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening and Amplifying
Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize All Veterans and Every
Spouse Act” or the “SAVE LIVES Act”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FUR-
NISH COVID–19 VACCINE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS NOT
ENROLLED IN PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYSTEM OF DEPART-
MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may furnish
a vaccine for COVID–19 to a covered individual during the COVID–
19 public health emergency.

(b) PRIORITIZATION.—In furnishing vaccines for COVID–19
under the laws administered by the Secretary, the Secretary shall—
(1) prioritize the vaccination of veterans who are enrolled
in the patient enrollment system, veterans who receive hospital
care and medical services pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of section
1705 of title 38, United States Code, and accompanying care-
givers of such veterans before the vaccination of covered individ-
uals not otherwise described in this paragraph; and
(2) only furnish vaccines for COVID–19 to covered individ-
uals under this section to the extent that such vaccines are
available.

(c) TIMING OF VACCINES PROVIDED TO SPOUSES OF VETERANS.—
The Secretary may determine the timing for offering a vaccine
for COVID–19 to the spouse of a veteran from the Department
of Veterans Affairs.

(d) VACCINE ALLOCATION.—It is the sense of Congress that,
to the extent practicable based on the current national supply
chain, the Secretary of Health and Human Services should adjust
the allocation for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the vaccine
for COVID–19 based on the additional eligibility of covered individ-
uals under this section.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
(1) ACCOMPANYING CAREGIVER.—The term “accompanying
caregiver” means a caregiver described in subparagraph (D),
(E), or (F) of paragraph (2) who is accompanying a veteran
who is receiving a vaccine for COVID–19 furnished by the
Department.
(2) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered individual” means any of the following individuals:

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

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

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

(D) A family caregiver of a veteran participating in the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under section 1720G(a) of such title.

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

(F) A caregiver of a veteran participating in the Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel and Bladder Program, Home Based Primary Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(G) A spouse of a veteran.

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


(5) PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYSTEM.—The term “patient enrollment system” means the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.

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

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.