

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 89

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID–19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID–19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, 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 “Ensuring Survivor  
5 Benefits During COVID–19 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEDICAL OPINIONS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH**  
2 **SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES WHO DIE**  
3 **OF COVID-19.**

4 In any case in which a veteran with one or more serv-  
5 ice-connected disabilities dies, the death certificate identi-  
6 fies Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) as the prin-  
7 cipal or contributory cause of death, the death certificate  
8 does not clearly identify any of the service-connected dis-  
9 abilities as the principal or contributory cause of death,  
10 and a claim for benefits is filed with respect to the veteran  
11 under chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code, the Sec-  
12 retary of Veterans Affairs shall secure a medical opinion  
13 to determine if a service-connected disability was the prin-  
14 cipal or contributory cause of death.

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