

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6564

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the Center for Minority Veterans and the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans to include services for historically underserved veterans, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2025

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the Center for Minority Veterans and the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans to include services for historically underserved veterans, 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 “Historically Under-  
5       served Veterans Inclusion Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF CENTER FOR MINORITY VETERANS**  
2 **AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY**  
3 **VETERANS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
4 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) CENTER FOR MINORITY AND HISTORICALLY UN-  
6 DERSERVED VETERANS.—Section 317 of title 38, United  
7 States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in the heading, by inserting “**and His-**  
9 **torically Underserved**” after “**Minority**”;

10 (2) by inserting “Executive” before “Director”  
11 each place it appears;

12 (3) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) by inserting “and Historically Under-  
14 served” after “Minority”; and

15 (B) by striking “the Center a” and insert-  
16 ing “the Center an”;

17 (4) in subsection (d), by striking “veterans who  
18 are minorities” each place it appears and inserting  
19 “covered veterans”; and

20 (5) in subsection (g)—

21 (A) in paragraph (1)—

22 (i) by striking “‘veterans who are mi-  
23 norities’” means and inserting “‘covered  
24 veterans’”; and

(ii) by inserting “and veterans who are historically underserved” after “minority group members”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “The term” and inserting “The terms”;

(ii) by inserting “and ‘veterans who are historically underserved’” after “minority group member”;

(iii) by striking “has the meaning given such term” and inserting “have the meanings given such terms”; and

(iv) by striking “section 544(d)” and inserting “section 544”.

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY AND HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED VETERANS.—Section 544 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the heading, by inserting “**and Historically Underserved**” after “**Minority**”;

(2) by striking “veterans who are minority group members” each place it appears and inserting “covered veterans”;

(3) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and Historically Underserved” after “Minority”;

1 (B) in paragraph (2)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (A)(v)—

3 (I) by striking “women”; and

4 (II) by inserting “who are  
5 women” before “and are”; and

6 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by adding at  
7 the end the following new clauses:

8 “(vii) The Secretary of Housing and Urban De-  
9 velopment (or a representative of the Secretary of  
10 Housing and Urban Development designated by the  
11 Secretary of Housing and Urban Development).

12 “(viii) The Secretary of Education (or a rep-  
13 resentative of the Secretary of Education designated  
14 by the Secretary of Education).

15 “(ix) The Attorney General (or a representative  
16 of the Attorney General designated by the Attorney  
17 General).

18 “(x) The Administrator of the Small Business  
19 Administration (or a representative of the Adminis-  
20 trator of the Small Business Administration des-  
21 ignated by the Administrator of the Small Business  
22 Administration).

23 “(xi) The Director of the Office of National  
24 Drug Control Policy (or a representative of the Di-  
25 rector of the Office of National Drug Control Policy

1 designated by the Director of the Office of National  
2 Drug Control Policy).”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
4 paragraph:

5 “(5) The duties of the Committee are to advise the  
6 Secretary on the following:

7 “(A) Modifying programs of the Department re-  
8 lating to policy, regulations, and legislative affairs to  
9 improve the representation of covered veterans with-  
10 in the Department.

11 “(B) Expanding benefits and services under the  
12 laws administered by the Secretary for covered vet-  
13 erans, including such benefits and services relating  
14 to health care, suicide prevention, and homelessness.

15 “(C) Incorporating research and practices from  
16 outreach programs to improve the provision of  
17 health care and burial benefits under the laws ad-  
18 ministered by the Secretary to covered veterans.

19 “(D) Addressing issues raised by State and  
20 local organizations that serve covered veterans.

21 “(E) Issuing, to private, non-profit, and faith-  
22 based organizations that serve covered veterans,  
23 guidance relating to addressing the needs of covered  
24 veterans.

1           “(F) Helping covered veterans receive benefits  
2           and services under the laws administered by the Sec-  
3           retary to which covered veterans are entitled.

4           “(G) Improving the methods by which covered  
5           veterans may submit feedback to the Department  
6           with respect to policies and regulations of the Sec-  
7           retary, including through stakeholder forums, social  
8           media, and virtual town halls.

9           “(H) Developing outreach and engagement to  
10          covered veterans.

11          “(I) Commemorating the contributions of cov-  
12          ered veterans to their respective communities.

13          “(J) To explore options on how the Secretary  
14          may incorporate lessons learned utilizing journey  
15          mapping, human center design, social determinants  
16          of wellness metrics, or other means to illustrate the  
17          life experience cycle of minority and historically un-  
18          derserved veterans to create a more holistic under-  
19          standing of important life cycle events and their im-  
20          pact.”;

21               (4) by striking subsection (e);

22               (5) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
23          section (e);

24               (6) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
25          lowing new subsection:

1 “(d)(1) The Secretary shall, on a biennial basis, carry  
2 out a review to identify any disparities among groups of  
3 veterans in the receipt of benefits under the laws adminis-  
4 tered by the Secretary. In carrying out any such review,  
5 the Secretary shall consider relevant recommendations  
6 from the Committee and data analysis conducted by the  
7 Department.

8 “(2) Not later than 120 days after the date on which  
9 Secretary completes any such review, the Secretary shall  
10 submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the  
11 House of Representatives and the Senate a report that  
12 includes, if applicable, recommendations with respect to  
13 extending services of Center for Minority and Historically  
14 Underserved Veterans under section 517 of this title to  
15 groups of veterans the Secretary determines to be histori-  
16 cally underserved pursuant to such review.”; and

17 (7) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

18 (A) by striking “section,” and all that fol-  
19 lows through “who is—” and inserting “sec-  
20 tion:”;

21 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)  
22 through (5) as subparagraphs (A) through (E),  
23 respectively (and adjusting the margins accord-  
24 ingly);

1 (C) by inserting before subparagraph (A)  
2 (as so redesignated) the following new para-  
3 graphs:

4 “(1) The term ‘covered veterans’ means vet-  
5 erans who are minority group members and veterans  
6 who are historically underserved.

7 “(2) The term ‘minority group member’ means  
8 an individual who is—”;

9 (D) in paragraph (2) (as added by sub-  
10 paragraph (C))—

11 (i) in subparagraph (D) (as so redes-  
12 ignated), by striking “or”;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (E) (as so redes-  
14 ignated), by striking the period at the end  
15 and inserting a semicolon; and

16 (iii) by adding at the end of the fol-  
17 lowing new subparagraphs:

18 “(F) Middle Eastern or North African  
19 American; or

20 “(G) identified with more than one race or  
21 ethnicity described in subparagraphs (A)  
22 through (F).”;

23 (E) by adding after paragraph (2) (as  
24 added by subparagraph (D)) the following new  
25 paragraph:



1           “(3) The term ‘veterans who are historically  
 2           underserved’ means veterans the Committee deter-  
 3           mines have experienced difficulty in receiving bene-  
 4           fits under the laws administered by the Secretary to  
 5           which such veterans are entitled on the basis of one  
 6           or more of the following:

7                   “(A) Sexual orientation.

8                   “(B) Gender identity.

9                   “(C) English language proficiency.

10                  “(D) United States citizenship.

11                  “(E) Religion.

12                  “(F) Low socioeconomic status.

13                  “(G) Residing in a rural community (as  
 14                  defined in regulations promulgated by the Sec-  
 15                  retary of Agriculture).

16                  “(H) Membership in a group of veterans  
 17                  the Secretary determines appropriate pursuant  
 18                  to the biennial review required under subsection  
 19                  (d).”.

20   **SEC. 3. REINSTATEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**

21                   **AFFAIRS OFFICE OF EQUITY ASSURANCE; BI-**

22                   **ANNUAL BRIEFING.**

23           (a) REINSTATEMENT.—Not later than 30 days after  
 24   the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
 25   Veterans Affairs shall—

1           (1) permanently reinstate the authority, func-  
2           tions, responsibilities, and research activities of the  
3           Office of Equity Assurance of the Veterans Benefits  
4           Administration;

5           (2) reinstate the employment of each employee  
6           of the Office of Equity Assurance, if such employee  
7           was terminated after January 20, 2025;

8           (3) ensure that a position in the Office of Eq-  
9           uity Assurance may not be eliminated pursuant to a  
10          reduction in force; and

11          (4) provide to the Committees on Veterans' Af-  
12          fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate  
13          a briefing with respect to the status of the imple-  
14          mentation of recommendations included in the re-  
15          port of the Comptroller General of the United States  
16          titled "VA Disability Benefits: Action Needed to  
17          Further Examine Racial and Ethnic Disparities in  
18          Compensation" (GAO-23-106097; published July  
19          26, 2023).

20          (b) BIENNIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days  
21          after the date on which the Secretary reinstates the Office  
22          of Equity Assurance pursuant to subsection (a), and on  
23          a biennial basis thereafter, the Under Secretary of Vet-  
24          erans Affairs for Benefits shall provide to the Committees  
25          on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and

- 1 the Senate a briefing on the data, research, and analysis
- 2 developed by the Office of Equity Assurance during the
- 3 period covered by the briefing.

