

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1665

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure veterans of secrecy oath programs receive the full benefits they have earned, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 7, 2025

Mr. BLUMENTHAL 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 ensure veterans of secrecy oath programs receive the full benefits they have earned, 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 “Obligations to Aber-

5 deen’s Trusted Heroes Act of 2025” or the “OATH Act

6 of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRECY OATH PROGRAM.**

8 Section 5100 of title 38, United States Code, is

9 amended by adding at the end the following new para-

10 graph:

1 “(3) The term ‘secrecy oath program’ means a
 2 United States Government program in which partici-
 3 pants are required to sign a non-disclosure agree-
 4 ment preventing the disclosure of any information
 5 regarding the program under penalty of court-mar-
 6 tial or criminal punishment.”.

7 **SEC. 3. NOTICE TO VETERANS OF SECRECY OATH PRO-**
 8 **GRAMS REGARDING BENEFITS.**

9 (a) NOTICE REQUIRED.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6303 of title 38,
 11 United States Code, is amended—

12 (A) by redesignating subsections (c), (d),
 13 and (e) as subsections (d), (e), and (f), respec-
 14 tively; and

15 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the
 16 following new subsection (c):

17 “(c) NOTICE TO VETERANS OF SECRECY OATH PRO-
 18 GRAMS.—(1) Not later than 90 days after the date on
 19 which participants in a secrecy oath program are released
 20 from the oath taken under such program, the Secretary
 21 shall—

22 “(A) identify the veterans who participated in
 23 the program;

1 “(B) notify each such veteran of all benefits
2 and services under laws administered by the Depart-
3 ment for which the veteran may be eligible; and

4 “(C) distribute the information described in
5 subsection (d)(1) as required by such subsection.

6 “(2) If the Secretary identifies any veterans who are
7 entitled to notice under paragraph (1) and did not receive
8 such notice, the Secretary shall, not later than 90 days
9 after the date of any such identification—

10 “(A) notify each such veteran of all benefits
11 and services under laws administered by the Depart-
12 ment for which the veteran may be eligible; and

13 “(B) distribute the information described in
14 subsection (d)(1) as required by such subsection.

15 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘secrecy oath pro-
16 gram’ has the meaning given that term in section 5100
17 of this title.”.

18 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 6303
19 of such title is further amended—

20 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “through
21 (d)” and inserting “through (e)”; and

22 (B) in subsection (e), as redesignated by
23 subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking “subsections
24 (b) and (c)” and inserting “subsections (b), (c),
25 and (d)”.

1 (b) EDGEWOOD ARSENAL PROGRAM.—Not later than
 2 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
 3 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

4 (1) identify the veterans who participated in the
 5 secrecy oath program at Edgewood Arsenal at Aber-
 6 deen Proving Ground, Maryland, at any time during
 7 the period beginning on January 1, 1948, and end-
 8 ing on December 31, 1975;

9 (2) notify each such veteran of all benefits and
 10 services under laws administered by the Department
 11 of Veterans Affairs for which the veteran may be eli-
 12 gible; and

13 (3) distribute the information described in sec-
 14 tion 6303(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as
 15 amended by subsection (a), as required by such sec-
 16 tion.

17 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATES OF AWARDS OF DISABILITY COM-**
 18 **PENSATION FOR PARTICIPANTS IN SECRECY**
 19 **OATH PROGRAMS.**

20 Section 5110(b) of title 38, United States Code, is
 21 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
 22 graph:

23 “(5)(A) The effective date of an award of disability
 24 compensation to a veteran described in subparagraph (B)

1 shall be the day following the date of the veteran's dis-
2 charge or release.

3 “(B) A veteran described in this subparagraph is a
4 veteran who—

5 “(i) participated in the secrecy oath program at
6 Edgewood Arsenal at Aberdeen Proving Ground,
7 Maryland, at any time during the period beginning
8 on January 1, 1948, and ending on December 31,
9 1975; or

10 “(ii) participated in any other secrecy oath pro-
11 gram not described in clause (i).”.

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