

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2776

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program of outreach to veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict on the nature and availability of benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2004

Mr. SPECTER 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 carry out a program of outreach to veterans of World War II and the Korean conflict on the nature and availability of benefits for 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. PROGRAM OF OUTREACH TO VETERANS OF**  
4 **WORLD WAR II AND KOREAN CONFLICT ON**  
5 **VETERANS BENEFITS.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
7 ings:

1           (1) Veterans of World War II and the Korean  
2           conflict represent 31.6 percent of the current popu-  
3           lation of veterans. However, veterans of World War  
4           II and the Korean conflict represent only 23.2 per-  
5           cent of the total number of veterans currently receiv-  
6           ing disability compensation from the Department of  
7           Veterans Affairs.

8           (2) Veterans of World War II and the Korean  
9           conflict who receive disability compensation have, on  
10          average, 1.94 and 2.12 disabilities per veteran, re-  
11          spectively, whereas veterans of the Vietnam era and  
12          the Persian Gulf War who receive disability com-  
13          pensation have, on average, 2.88 and 3.48 disabil-  
14          ities per veteran, respectively.

15          (3) Advances in medical science and technology  
16          have improved the understanding of the origins of  
17          diseases and disabilities which are associated with  
18          military service, including diseases and disabilities  
19          that manifest long after the completion of military  
20          service.

21          (4) Unlike veterans of later periods, veterans of  
22          World War II and the Korean conflict did not have  
23          the benefit of extensive transition assistance and  
24          outreach services now routinely provided by the De-  
25          partment and other government agencies.

1           (5) Veterans of World War II and the Korean  
2       conflict are dying at the aggregate rate of 1,400 per  
3       day.

4           (6) It is in the interest of the Nation that the  
5       Secretary make every effort to inform veterans of  
6       World War II and the Korean conflict of the bene-  
7       fits to which they may be entitled.

8       (b) OUTREACH.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Af-  
9       fairs shall carry out a program to provide outreach to vet-  
10      erans of World War II and of the Korean conflict on the  
11      nature and availability of benefits for veterans.

12       (2) The purpose of the program is to make veterans  
13      of World War II and of the Korean conflict aware of the  
14      veterans benefits to which they may be entitled and to en-  
15      courage such veterans to apply for such benefits.

16       (3)(A) The program shall include a nationwide public  
17      service campaign consisting of such elements, and appear-  
18      ing in and through such media, as the Secretary considers  
19      appropriate for the program.

20       (B) Of the amount authorized to be appropriated by  
21      subsection (e) for the program, \$35,000,000 shall be avail-  
22      able for the public service campaign described in subpara-  
23      graph (A).

24       (4) As part of the program, the Secretary shall estab-  
25      lish performance measures for the outreach under the pro-

1 gram to permit the on-going evaluation of the extent and  
2 success of the outreach under the program.

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the  
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall sub-  
5 mit to Congress a report on the program under this sec-  
6 tion. The report shall include the following:

7 (1) A description of the program, including a  
8 detailed description of the outreach conducted under  
9 the program.

10 (2) A statement of the amount expended on the  
11 program.

12 (3) An assessment of the effectiveness of the  
13 program.

14 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “World  
15 War II” and “Korean conflict” have the meanings given  
16 such terms in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
18 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans  
19 Affairs such sums as may be necessary to carry out this  
20 section.

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