

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1853

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that Department of Veterans Affairs police officers receive training to interact with visitors and patients at Department medical facilities who are suffering from mental illness.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2007

Ms. WATSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that Department of Veterans Affairs police officers receive training to interact with visitors and patients at Department medical facilities who are suffering from mental illness.

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 “Jose Medina Veterans  
5       Affairs Police Training Act of 2007”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On September 30, 2006, there were an esti-  
2 mated 24,000,000 living veterans.

3 (2) 7.8 percent of the total estimated resident  
4 population of the United States and Puerto Rico are  
5 recipients, or potential recipients, of veterans' bene-  
6 fits from the Federal Government.

12 (4) These veterans may potentially seek medical  
13 assistance by directly contacting a Department of  
14 Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

20 (6) Studies show that members of the reserve  
21 components are particularly vulnerable to PTSD,  
22 and females face a higher risk for PTSD than do  
23 males.

1 Gulf War developed PTSD, and psychologists are  
2 expecting figures to be at least as high for Operation  
3 Iraqi Freedom.

4 (8) According to figures released by the Depart-  
5 ment of Defense, more than 1,000,000 American  
6 troops have served thus far in the conflicts in Iraq  
7 and Afghanistan, and some experts predict that the  
8 number eventually requiring mental health treat-  
9 ment could exceed 100,000.

### 10 SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

11 It is the sense of Congress that while the United  
12 States is conducting combat operations in Afghanistan  
13 and Iraq, the Department of Veterans Affairs should bet-  
14 ter prepare its police force to interact with patients and  
15 visitors at Department medical facilities who suffer from  
16 mental illness.

17 SEC. 4. TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-  
18 FAIRS POLICE OFFICERS TO INTERACT WITH  
19 INDIVIDUALS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL ILL-  
20 NESS.

21 (a) TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-  
22 FAIRS POLICE OFFICERS TO INTERACT WITH INDIVID-  
23 UALS SUFFERING FROM MENTAL ILLNESS.—

4       **“§ 906. Training for Department police officers to**  
5                   **interact with individuals suffering from**  
6                   **mental illness**

7        “The Secretary shall ensure that all Department po-  
8 lice officers receive training on how to interact with visi-  
9 tors and patients at Department medical facilities who are  
10 suffering from, or who exhibit symptoms of, mental ill-  
11 ness.”.

12 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
13 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
14 by adding at the end the following new item:

“906. Training for Department police officers to interact with individuals suffering from mental illness.”.

15 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary shall imple-  
16 ment section 906 of title 38, United States Code, as added  
17 by subsection (a), not later than 8 months after the date  
18 of the enactment of this Act.

