

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2506

To direct the Secretary of Defense to ensure the members of the Armed Forces receive mandatory hearing screenings before and after deployments and to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to mandate that tinnitus be listed as a mandatory condition for treatment by the Department of Veterans Affairs Auditory Centers of Excellence and that research on the preventing, treating, and curing of tinnitus be conducted.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 19, 2009

Mr. TEAGUE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to ensure the members of the Armed Forces receive mandatory hearing screenings before and after deployments and to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to mandate that tinnitus be listed as a mandatory condition for treatment by the Department of Veterans Affairs Auditory Centers of Excellence and that research on the preventing, treating, and curing of tinnitus be conducted.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Hearing and  
3 Assessment Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5       It is the sense of Congress that tinnitus is one of the  
6 leading service-connected disability issues that is not being  
7 addressed.

8 **SEC. 3. MANDATORY HEARING EVALUATIONS FOR MEM-**  
9 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

10       The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that each  
11 member of the Armed Forces receives a hearing evaluation  
12 that includes a screening for tinnitus before the member  
13 is deployed and after the member returns from a deploy-  
14 ment.

15 **SEC. 4. RESEARCH AND TREATMENT OF TINNITUS BY SEC-**  
16 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

17       (a) RECOGNITION.—The Secretary of Veterans af-  
18 fairs shall recognize tinnitus as a mandatory condition for  
19 research and treatment by the Department of Veterans  
20 Affairs Auditory Centers of Excellence.

21       (b) RESEARCH.—The Secretary for Veterans Affairs  
22 shall ensure that research is conducted at Department of  
23 Veterans Affairs facilities on the prevention, treatment,  
24 and curing of tinnitus.

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