

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4778

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of security cameras in medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 1, 2020

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. MANCHIN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of security cameras in medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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. REPORT ON USE OF SECURITY CAMERAS IN**
4 **MEDICAL CENTERS OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
5 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
8 erans Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of Oper-
9 ations, Security, and Preparedness of the Department of

1 Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Health Administration,
2 and the Office of Construction and Facilities Management
3 of the Department, shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
4 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-
5 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report
6 regarding the policies and procedures of the Department
7 relating to the usage and placement of security cameras
8 throughout medical centers of the Department and the
9 role such cameras play in patient safety, security of the
10 medical center, and maintaining patient privacy.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
12 (a) shall include the following:

13 (1) A specification of the policies and proce-
14 dures of the Department regarding the use of secu-
15 rity cameras at medical centers of the Department
16 with respect to the following:

17 (A) How the Department uses security
18 cameras to protect patients, including—

19 (i) an identification of the specific
20 units within medical centers in which the
21 use of security cameras is prioritized to
22 protect patient safety;

23 (ii) a description of the procedures
24 that are in place to position security cam-

1 eras to ensure that staff of the Depart-
2 ment are properly caring for patients;

3 (iii) a description of how the Depart-
4 ment uses security cameras to monitor
5 staff;

6 (iv) a description of the extent to
7 which medical centers install security cam-
8 eras to monitor all locations where drugs
9 are stored to ensure that drugs are ac-
10 counted for, and an assessment of whether
11 this is a widely used practice; and

12 (v) a description of improvements that
13 can be made by the Department regarding
14 the placement of security cameras and the
15 storage of data from such cameras to bet-
16 ter hold staff accountable and ensure the
17 safety of patients.

18 (B) The extent to which the Department
19 requires the use of security cameras at medical
20 centers to enhance overall security, including—

21 (i) a description of how exterior secu-
22 rity cameras are used;

23 (ii) a description of how interior secu-
24 rity cameras are used; and

1 (iii) an identification of the locations,
2 interior and exterior, in which the Depart-
3 ment prioritizes the use of security cam-
4 eras.

5 (C) The patient privacy policy of the De-
6 partment with respect to the placement of secu-
7 rity cameras, including—

8 (i) the extent to which the Depart-
9 ment authorizes security cameras to be
10 placed outside of patient rooms to monitor
11 who enters the room; and

12 (ii) an identification of areas within
13 medical centers where the use of security
14 cameras is banned.

15 (2) Recommendations for improving patient se-
16 curity and ensuring that staff is held accountable,
17 including—

18 (A) recommendations with respect to—

19 (i) how the Department could better
20 use security cameras to protect the safety
21 of patients;

22 (ii) the manner in which the Depart-
23 ment can better authorize direct super-
24 visors to monitor footage from security
25 cameras;

1 (iii) specific units within medical cen-
2 ters in which the use of security cameras
3 should be required to hold staff account-
4 able;

5 (iv) the amount of funding necessary
6 to address shortfalls with respect to secu-
7 rity cameras and the specific uses for such
8 funding; and

9 (v) the number of staff that each
10 medical center should have monitoring
11 footage from security cameras at all times;
12 and

13 (B) reasoning as to whether or not the
14 Secretary would recommend that every hallway
15 of each medical center have at least one secu-
16 rity camera.

17 (3) Such other matters as the Secretary con-
18 siders necessary.

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