

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3027

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a counseling program for certain survivors of veterans who die by suicide.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2025

Mr. VAN DREW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a counseling program for certain survivors of veterans who die by suicide.

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 “Green Star Families
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COUNSELING PROGRAM FOR NEXT OF KIN AND**
7 **CAREGIVERS OF VETERANS WHO DIE BY SUI-**
8 **CIDE.**

9 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter II of chapter 17
10 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at

1 the end the following new section (and amending the table
2 of sections at the beginning of such chapter accordingly):

3 **“§ 1720M. Counseling program for next of kin and**
4 **caregivers of veterans who die by suicide**

5 “(a) COUNSELING PROGRAM.—(1) Subject to para-
6 graph (2), the Secretary shall furnish, at no cost to the
7 recipient, counseling services to—

8 “(A) the next of kin of a veteran who dies by
9 suicide; and

10 “(B) a former volunteer caregiver of a veteran
11 who dies by suicide.

12 “(2) The Secretary may provide counseling services
13 under this section only if the Secretary determines such
14 counseling services are—

15 “(A) reasonably accessible to an individual de-
16 scribed in paragraph (1); and

17 “(B) substantially equivalent or superior to
18 similar services furnished by the Secretary to an in-
19 dividual described in paragraph (1).

20 “(3) To carry out subsection (a), the Secretary may
21 enter into an agreement with a Federal, State, or private
22 entity. The Secretary may provide fair compensation to
23 such entity pursuant to such agreement.

24 “(b) PUBLIC AWARENESS.—In carrying out the pro-
25 gram under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

1 “(1) publish information relating to the pro-
2 gram on a website of the Department; and

3 “(2) provide information relating to the pro-
4 gram to any individual described in paragraph (1).

5 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) The term ‘covered veterans service organi-
7 zation’ includes—

8 “(A) an organization recognized by the
9 Secretary for the representation of veterans
10 under section 5902 of this title; and

11 “(B) an organization—

12 “(i) that is described in section
13 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) of the Internal
14 Revenue Code of 1986 and is exempt from
15 taxation under section 501(a) of such
16 Code; and

17 “(ii) that carries out activities relating
18 to veterans and their assistance.

19 “(2) The term ‘former volunteer caregiver’
20 means, with respect to a veteran who dies by suicide,
21 an individual—

22 “(A) who is at least 18 years of age; and

23 “(B) who, prior to the death of the vet-
24 eran, and in connection with a covered veterans
25 service organization, furnished the veteran with

1 counseling, social work, or other personal care
2 services—

3 “(i) without compensation to such in-
4 dividual; and

5 “(ii) for a period of at least three
6 months.

7 “(3) The term ‘next of kin’ means the closest
8 living relative of a veteran who dies by suicide, in
9 the following order of priority:

10 “(A) Spouse.

11 “(B) A child.

12 “(C) A parent.

13 “(D) A sibling.

14 “(E) Another individual determined by the
15 Secretary.

16 “(4) The term ‘personal care services’ has the
17 meaning given such term in section 1720G of this
18 title.”.

19 (b) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—The Secretary of
20 Veterans Affairs shall carry out section 1720M of such
21 title, as added by subsection (a), not later than 90 days
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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