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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to promote and encourage collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher learning that provide administrative assistance to veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WITTMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to promote and encourage collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs and nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher learning that provide administrative assistance to veterans.

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 “Veterans Collaboration
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PRO-**
2 **GRAM ON ENCOURAGEMENT OF PARTNER-**
3 **SHIPS BETWEEN VETERANS SERVICE ORGA-**
4 **NIZATIONS AND LAW SCHOOLS PROVIDING**
5 **PRO BONO SERVICES TO VETERANS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
7 shall carry out a two-year pilot program to promote and
8 encourage partnerships between the Department of Vet-
9 erans Affairs and nonprofit organizations and institutions
10 of higher learning. In carrying out the pilot program, the
11 Secretary shall encourage partnerships between—

12 (1) veterans service organizations that provide
13 personnel with appropriate credentials to assist vet-
14 erans in filing claims and appeals with the Depart-
15 ment for disability compensation and to address
16 other legal needs of veterans; and

17 (2) law schools that provide pro bono legal as-
18 sistance and legal services to veterans.

19 (b) METRICS.—The Secretary shall establish guide-
20 lines to determine which organizations and institutions are
21 best positioned to serve veterans and seek to encourage
22 such organizations and institutions to participate in the
23 pilot program.

24 (c) LOCATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the
25 pilot program in States with the highest veteran popu-
26 lations, as determined by the Secretary.

1 (d) USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.—In carrying out the
2 pilot program, the Secretary shall use social media to pro-
3 mote the partnerships carried out under the pilot program
4 and to notify veterans of such partnerships.

5 (e) REPORTS.—Not later than 30 days after the last
6 day of each fiscal quarter until the termination of the pilot
7 program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on
8 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Rep-
9 resentatives a report on the pilot program. Each such re-
10 port shall include, for the fiscal quarter covered by the
11 report, a description of the use of social media under sub-
12 section (d) and the number of veterans who received as-
13 sistance from law schools through the program.