AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1181, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MS. ESTY OF CONNECTICUT

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM WITH RESPECT TO VETERANS.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the operation of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System with respect to veterans to make recommendations for the improvement of such system.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report that includes each of the following:

(1) A description and analysis of Department of Veterans Affairs practices for identifying and submitting records of veterans to the Attorney General for purposes of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.
(2) An assessment of how the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114–255) will impact current practice by the Department of Veterans Affairs to share mental health records for purposes of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

(3) A review of the number of veterans currently prohibited from possessing or receiving firearms by reason of a determination made by the Department of Veterans Affairs, including a breakdown of all service-connected disabilities, by diagnostic code, that factored into such a determination.

(4) A review, by State and by year, of the numbers of denials and delayed denial cases identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation or referred to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms since 2003 that involve individuals prohibited from possessing or receiving firearms by reason of a determination made by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(5) The number of veterans who have committed suicide using a firearm who were prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm by reason of a determination made by the Department of Veterans Affairs or the application of any law.
An analysis of how allowing all those individuals who were previously determined to be mentally incompetent by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs access to firearms would impact their risk for suicide, given that—

(A) the mentally ill have a the heightened risk of suicide;

(B) veterans attempt suicide at a higher rate than the general population; and

(C) 90 percent of suicide attempts by firearm are completed.

Recommendations for any legislative or administrative actions that could improve the process used by the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide information for purposes of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System or to make determinations affecting the ability of a veteran to possess or receive a firearm, under including determinations, notice, and appeals for veterans.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on the operation of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System with respect to veterans, and for other purposes.”.