

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 118-

36

OFFERED BY MR. GARBARINO OF NEW YORK

At the end of subtitle C of title XVII, insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 17___ . DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS REVIEW**
2 **OF CERTAIN VETERANS' DEATHS BY SUICIDE.**

3 (a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
5 of Veterans Affairs shall complete a review of the deaths
6 of all covered veterans who died by suicide during the five-
7 year period preceding the date of the enactment of this
8 Act. Such review shall include—

9 (1) the total number of veterans who died by
10 suicide during the five-year period preceding the
11 date of the enactment of this Act;

12 (2) a summary of such veterans that includes
13 the age, gender, and race of such veterans;

14 (3) a comprehensive list of the medications pre-
15 scribed to, and found in the systems of, such vet-
16 erans at the time of their deaths, specifically listing
17 any medications that carried a black box warning,

1 were off-label, psychotropic, or carried warnings that
2 included suicidal ideation;

3 (4) a summary of medical diagnoses by Depart-
4 ment of Veterans Affairs physicians which led to the
5 prescribing of the medications referred to in para-
6 graph (3);

7 (5) the number of instances in which the vet-
8 eran who died by suicide was concurrently on mul-
9 tiple medications prescribed by Department of Vet-
10 erans Affairs physicians;

11 (6) the percentage of veterans who died by sui-
12 cide who were not taking any medication prescribed
13 by a Department of Veterans Affairs physician;

14 (7) the percentage of veterans referred to in
15 paragraph (1) with combat experience or trauma
16 (including, but not limited to military sexual trauma,
17 traumatic brain injury, and post-traumatic stress);

18 (8) Veteran Health Administration facilities
19 with markedly high prescription and suicide rates of
20 patients being treated at those facilities;

21 (9) a description of Department of Veterans Af-
22 fairs policies governing the prescribing of medica-
23 tions referred to in paragraph (3);

24 (10) any patterns apparent to the Secretary
25 based on the review; and

1 (11) recommendations for further action that
2 would improve the safety and well-being of veterans.

3 (b) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than 30 days
4 after the completion of the review required under sub-
5 section (a), the Secretary shall—

6 (1) submit to Congress a report on the results
7 of the review; and

8 (2) make such report publicly available.

9 (c) COVERED VETERAN.—In this section:

10 (1) The term “covered veteran” means any vet-
11 eran who received hospital care or medical services
12 furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs
13 during the five-year period preceding the death of
14 the veteran.

15 (2) The term “black box warning” means a
16 warning displayed within a box in the prescribing in-
17 formation for drugs that have special problems, par-
18 ticularly ones that may lead to death or serious in-
19 jury.

