SEC. 11. POSTING OF AVERAGE NATIONAL WAIT TIMES FOR
HEALTH CARE APPOINTMENTS AND AVERAGE
PROCESSING TIMES OF DISABILITY COM-
PENSATION CLAIMS AND APPEALS.

(a) FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(A) According to the Suicide Data Report,
2012, of the Department of Veterans Affairs,
22 veterans commit suicide every day.

(B) According to estimates of the Depart-
ment, only approximately five of these 22 vet-
erans are enrolled in the mental health care
system of the Department.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
Congress that—

(A) The Department of Veterans Affairs
must be more urgent and effective in its ap-
proach to addressing veteran suicide and pro-
viding veterans access to mental health care;
(B) Congress urges the Department to ensure that preventing veteran suicide and providing veterans access to mental health care is the top reform priority of the Department.

(b) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and on a monthly basis thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) determine, with respect to the one-year period before the date of the determination—

(A) the average national wait times (in days) for a veteran enrolled in the health care system established under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code—

(i) to receive an appointment for mental health care at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(ii) to receive an appointment for primary health care at such a facility;

(B) the average claims processing time of the Secretary with respect to claims for disability compensation under chapter 11 of such title 38; and
(C) the average appeals processing time of the Secretary to decide an appeal to such a claim for disability compensation; and

(2) provide the Secretary of Defense with such information determined under paragraph (1).

(c) Posting of Information.—The Secretary of Defense shall place in a conspicuous location at each career counselor or career assistance advisor office a sign that—

(1) is not less than 18 inches tall by 24 inches wide; and

(2) is continuously updated to display the most current information received by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (b)(2).

(d) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) The term “appeals processing time” means, with respect to a veteran filing an appeal to a decision of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs denying a claim for disability compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, the period beginning on the date on which the claimant files a notice of disagreement and ending on the date on which the claimant is informed of the decision to such notice of disagreement.
(2) The term “claims processing time” means, with respect to a veteran filing a claim for disability compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, the period beginning on the date on which the claim is originally received by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and ending on the date on which the Secretary informs the claimant of the decision.

(3) The term “wait time” means, with respect to a veteran receiving an appointment for health care at a medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the period beginning on the date on which the veteran first requests such appointment and ending on the date on which such appointment occurs.