

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S.

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out efforts to inform veterans of their rights with regards to the receipt of health care, benefits, and services furnished under provisions of law administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out efforts to inform veterans of their rights with regards to the receipt of health care, benefits, and services furnished under provisions of law administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

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’ Bill of
5 Rights Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

5 (2) Veterans transitioning to civilian life from
6 service in the Armed Forces deserve timely access to
7 health care, benefits, and information, as well as re-
8 spect, dignity, and transparency in all interactions
9 with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

10 (3) The responsibilities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs require that veterans' rights be clearly
11 codified to ensure accountability and consistent nationwide administration of benefits and services
12
13

14 SEC. 3. VETERANS' BILL OF RIGHTS.

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
16 shall carry out efforts to inform veterans of their rights
17 with regards to the receipt of health care, benefits, and
18 services furnished under provisions of law administered by
19 the Secretary.

20 (b) ELEMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
21 Secretary shall ensure that veterans are aware of their
22 rights with respect to the following:

23 (1) ACCESS TO VA OR VA-AUTHORIZED PRO-
24 VIDERS.—Veterans have the right to receive health
25 care from the Department of Veterans Affairs or,

1 when eligible under Federal law, from community
2 providers authorized by the Department.

3 (2) RESPECT AND DIGNITY.—The right to be
4 treated with courtesy, respect, and dignity in all
5 interactions with personnel of the Department.

6 (3) INFORMED CONSENT.—The right to receive
7 clear, complete information about treatment options
8 and to provide informed consent for care furnished
9 under laws administered by the Secretary.

10 (4) AWARENESS OF BENEFITS.—The right to
11 receive comprehensive, understandable information
12 about benefits, programs, and services for which the
13 veteran may be eligible or entitled under laws ad-
14 ministered by the Secretary.

15 (5) ACCESS TO BENEFITS.—The right to apply
16 for benefits furnished under provisions of law admin-
17 istered by the Secretary at any time and to receive
18 clear explanations from the Department regarding
19 eligibility determinations concerning such benefits.

20 (6) HEALTH CARE WITHOUT RETALIATION.—
21 The right to seek care or raise concerns without fear
22 of stigma, retaliation, or adverse action from the De-
23 partment.

24 (7) PRIVACY.—The right to the protection of
25 personal information and medical records consistent

1 with provisions of Federal law relating to privacy,
2 protection of personal information, and medical
3 records.

4 (8) RIGHT TO GRIEVANCE REDRESS.—The right
5 to file complaints concerning services furnished by
6 the Department and to receive timely, thorough in-
7 vestigation and resolution of those complaints.

8 (9) TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION.—The
9 right to clear written notification from the Depart-
10 ment regarding the status of claims, benefits, and
11 appeals filed with the Department.

12 (10) APPEAL AND FAIR HEARING.—The right
13 to appeal adverse decisions of the Secretary and to
14 receive fair hearings from the Department within a
15 reasonable time.

16 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Secretary shall—

17 (1) integrate the rights described in subsection
18 (b) into all Department of Veterans Affairs policies,
19 directives, patient-facing materials, and employee
20 training programs;

21 (2) ensure every employee of the Department
22 receives annual training on such rights;

23 (3) prominently display such rights at all De-
24 partment facilities and the website of the Depart-
25 ment;

1 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The provisions of
2 this section shall not be construed—

3 (1) to create a cause of action for damages or
4 judicially enforceable rights beyond those already es-
5 tablished under Federal law; or

6 (2) to alter statutory eligibility requirements for
7 care or benefits furnished under laws administered
8 by the Secretary.