114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION  

H. R. 421  

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the mental health treatment provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans who served in classified missions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
JANUARY 20, 2015  

Ms. Sinema (for herself, Mr. Murphy of Pennsylvania, Mr. Peters, Mr. Yoho, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Hunter, Ms. Kuster, Mr. Benishek, and Ms. Gabbard) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL  
To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the mental health treatment provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans who served in classified missions.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.  
This Act may be cited as the “Classified Veterans Access to Care Act”.
SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR VETERANS WHO
SERVED IN CLASSIFIED MISSIONS.

(a) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Con-
gress that veterans who experience combat-related mental
health wounds should have immediate, appropriate, and
consistent access to comprehensive mental health care.

(b) In General.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of
title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
end the following section:

“§ 1720H. Mental health treatment for veterans who
served in classified missions

“(a) Establishment of Standards.—(1) The
Secretary shall establish standards and procedures to en-
sure that each covered veteran may access mental health
care provided by the Secretary in a manner that fully ac-
commodates the obligation of the veteran to not improp-
erly disclose classified information.

“(2) The Secretary shall disseminate guidance to em-
ployees of the Veterans Health Administration, including
mental health professionals, on the standards and proce-
dures established under paragraph (1) and how to best
engage covered veterans during the course of mental
health treatment with respect to classified information.

“(b) Identification.—In carrying out this section,
the Secretary shall ensure that a veteran may elect to
identify as a covered veteran on an appropriate form.
“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘classified information’ means any information or material that has been determined by an official of the United States pursuant to law, an Executive order, or regulation to require protection against unauthorized disclosure for reasons of national security.

“(2) The term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who—

“(A) is enrolled in the health care system established under section 1705(a) of this title;

“(B) is seeking mental health treatment;

and

“(C) in the course of serving in the Armed Forces, participated in a sensitive mission or served in a sensitive unit.

“(3) The term ‘sensitive mission’ means a mission of the Armed Forces that, at the time at which a covered veteran seeks treatment, is classified.

“(4) The term ‘sensitive unit’ has the meaning given that term in section 130b(c)(4) of title 10.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding after the item relating to section 1720G the following new item:
‘1720H. Mental health treatment for veterans who served in classified missions.’.