

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1313

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a mission statement of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 22, 2021

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a mission statement of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Honoring All Veterans
5 Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. MISSION STATEMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-** 7 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

8 (a) REQUIRED MISSION STATEMENT.—Section 301
9 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at
10 the end the following new subsection:

1 “(d) The mission statement of the Department shall
2 be as follows: ‘To fulfill President Lincoln’s promise to
3 care for those “who shall have borne the battle” and for
4 their families, caregivers, and survivors.’”.

5 (b) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
7 erans Affairs shall—

8 (1) publish in the Federal Register and on the
9 internet website of the Department of Veterans Af-
10 fairs a notification explaining the mission statement
11 of the Department as specified in subsection (d) of
12 section 301 of title 38, United States Code, as added
13 by subsection (a) of this section; and

14 (2) update each internet website of the Depart-
15 ment of Veterans Affairs and other electronic ref-
16 erences that use a previous mission statement.

17 (c) GUIDANCE.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
19 the date of the enactment of the this Act, the Sec-
20 retary shall develop and issue guidance to all ele-
21 ments of the Department regarding the mission
22 statement of the Department as specified in sub-
23 section (d) of section 301 of title 38, United States
24 Code, as added by subsection (a) of this section.

1 (2) CONTENTS.—The guidance required by
2 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

3 (A) A notification explaining the mission
4 statement.

5 (B) Instructions and a timeline for updat-
6 ing all previous mission statement references at
7 each such element.

8 (C) A method to monitor and evaluate the
9 compliance by facilities of the Department with
10 the guidance, including a reporting mechanism
11 for such facilities to report back to the Sec-
12 retary on the progress made in updating all
13 non-electronic mission statement references.

14 (D) Any other information that the Sec-
15 retary determines necessary to ensure timely
16 compliance with the guidance.

17 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
19 to Congress a report containing a review and assessment
20 of the progress of each element of the Department in com-
21 plying with the guidance under subsection (c), including—

22 (1) any reasons explaining why an element of
23 the Department has failed to implement the guid-
24 ance; and

1 (2) a plan to address any such failure to imple-
2 ment the guidance and ensure that each element of
3 the Department fully implements and complies with
4 the guidance.

○