

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 539

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of video cameras for patient safety and law enforcement at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2 (legislative day, MARCH 1), 2021

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of video cameras for patient safety and law enforcement at medical centers 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. REPORT ON USE OF CAMERAS AT MEDICAL**
4 **CENTERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
5 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of Op-

1 erations, Security, and Preparedness of the Department
 2 of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Health Administration,
 3 and the Office of Construction and Facilities Management
 4 of the Department, shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
 5 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-
 6 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report
 7 analyzing the policies, use, and maintenance of cameras
 8 deployed by the Department for patient safety and law
 9 enforcement at medical centers of the Department.

10 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
 11 (a) shall include the following:

12 (1) A comprehensive review of the policies and
 13 procedures of the Department regarding the use and
 14 maintenance of cameras at medical centers of the
 15 Department with respect to the following:

16 (A) Patient safety, including—

17 (i) an analysis of how cameras are
 18 used to monitor staff and patients;

19 (ii) an analysis of the specific units
 20 within medical centers in which the use of
 21 cameras is prioritized to protect patient
 22 safety;

23 (iii) an analysis of the procedures re-
 24 garding the positioning of cameras; and

1 (iv) an analysis of the extent to which
2 cameras monitor locations where drugs are
3 stored to ensure that drugs are accounted
4 for, and an assessment of whether that is
5 a widely used practice.

6 (B) Law enforcement, including—

7 (i) how exterior cameras are used;

8 (ii) how interior cameras are used;

9 and

10 (iii) an analysis of locations, interior
11 and exterior, in which use of cameras is
12 prioritized.

13 (2) Recommendations of the Secretary to im-
14 prove patient safety and law enforcement, includ-
15 ing—

16 (A) the placement and maintenance of
17 cameras at medical centers of the Department;

18 (B) the storage of data from such cameras;

19 (C) the authority of supervisors at medical
20 centers of the Department to review recordings
21 from such cameras;

22 (D) the number of staff required to mon-
23 itor live footage from such cameras at each
24 medical center of the Department;

1 (E) the funding necessary to address
2 shortfalls with respect to the use of such cam-
3 eras and the specific uses for such funding; and

4 (F) such other matters as the Secretary
5 determines appropriate.

6 (c) CAMERA DEFINED.—In this section, the term
7 “camera” means any video camera used at a medical cen-
8 ter of the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes
9 of patient safety or law enforcement.

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