

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 553

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a patient outreach system relating to mental health care, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 16, 2025

Mr. WITTMAN (for himself and Mr. CASE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a patient outreach system relating to mental health care, 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 “Be Ready to Assist  
5 Veterans in Extremis Act” or the “BRAVE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
2 **AFFAIRS SYSTEM FOR PATIENT OUTREACH**  
3 **RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH CARE.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF SYSTEM.—Chapter 17 of  
5 title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
6 section 1720J the following new section (and conforming  
7 the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter ac-  
8 cordingly):

9 **“§ 1720K. Mental health care: patient outreach sys-**  
10 **tem**

11 “The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a  
12 patient outreach system under which the Secretary shall  
13 ensure that veterans who are enrolled in the system of an-  
14 nual patient enrollment established and operated under  
15 section 1705 of this title and have experienced a traumatic  
16 or other highly stressful event, may elect to receive from  
17 the Secretary information relating to mental health and  
18 resources relating to the mental health care services avail-  
19 able to the veteran.”.

20 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF SYSTEM.—In administering  
21 the patient outreach system established under section  
22 1720K of title 38, United States Code (as added by sub-  
23 section (a)), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek  
24 to coordinate such system with the Transition Assistance  
25 Program of the Department of Defense.

1       (c) DEADLINE FOR ESTABLISHMENT.—The Sec-  
2       retary shall establish the patient outreach system under  
3       such section 1720K by not later than two years after the  
4       date of the enactment of this Act.

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