

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4506

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish tests and vaccinations to veterans during public health emergencies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2021

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish tests and vaccinations to veterans during public health emergencies.

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’ Access to
5 Care Concerning Inoculations Needed in Emergency Situ-
6 ations Act” or the “VACCINES Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TESTING AND VACCINATIONS OF VETERANS DUR-**
2 **ING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of
4 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
5 end the following new section:

6 **“§ 1720K. Testing and vaccinations during public**
7 **health emergency**

8 “(a) TESTING AND VACCINATIONS.—During a public
9 health emergency, the Secretary shall furnish to vet-
10 erans—

11 “(1) diagnostic products to detect the disease
12 relating to the emergency; and

13 “(2) vaccinations for such disease.

14 “(b) PROHIBITION ON COPAYMENTS.—The Secretary
15 may not require any copayment or other cost sharing
16 under this chapter for any diagnostic product or vaccine
17 furnished under subsection (a).

18 “(c) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct out-
19 reach to ensure that veterans are aware of the diagnostic
20 products and vaccines furnished under subsection (a) dur-
21 ing a public health emergency.

22 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 “(1) The term ‘public health emergency’ means
24 a period in which an emergency is declared by a
25 Federal authority.

26 “(2) The term ‘veteran’ includes—

1 “(A) any veteran without regard to wheth-
2 er the veteran is enrolled, or is eligible to enroll,
3 in the system of annual patient enrollment of
4 the Department established and operated under
5 section 1705(a) of this title; and

6 “(B) a veteran who is eligible for care
7 under section 1724.”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
9 at the beginning of subchapter II of chapter 17 of such
10 title is amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
11 tion 1720J the following new item:

“1720K. Testing and vaccinations during public health emergency.”.

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