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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and implement a comprehensive anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BROWNLEY of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and implement a comprehensive anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault policy 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. ANTI-HARASSMENT AND ANTI-SEXUAL ASSAULT**
2 **POLICY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
3 **AFFAIRS.**

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

7 **“§ 533. Anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault pol-**
8 **icy**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
10 Affairs shall establish a comprehensive policy to end har-
11 assment and sexual assault, including sexual and gender-
12 based harassment, at all facilities of the Department of
13 Veterans Affairs. This policy shall include the following:

14 “(1) Responses to incidents of harassment and
15 sexual assault committed by any veteran or other
16 public visitor within a facility of the Department.

17 “(2) Responses to incidents of harassment and
18 sexual assault of any veteran or other public visitor
19 within a facility of the Department.

20 “(3) A process for reporting and responding to
21 harassment and sexual assault described in para-
22 graph (1).

23 “(4) A process for reporting and responding to
24 harassment and sexual assault described in para-
25 graph (2).

1 “(5) A mandatory reporting requirement appli-
2 cable to any employee or contractor of the Depart-
3 ment who witnesses harassment or sexual assault
4 within a facility of the Department.

5 “(6) Mandatory annual training for employees
6 and contractors of the Department regarding how to
7 report and address harassment and sexual assault
8 described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

9 “(7) Annual distribution of anti-harassment
10 and anti-sexual assault educational materials by mail
11 or email to each individual entitled to a benefit
12 under a law administered by the Secretary.

13 “(8) The prominent display of anti-harassment
14 and anti-sexual assault messages in each facility of
15 the Department, including how to report harassment
16 and sexual assault at such facility.

17 “(9) The posting of anti-harassment and anti-
18 sexual assault banners on websites of the Depart-
19 ment, including eBenefits.va.gov and
20 myHealthEVet.va.gov.

21 “(b) POINTS OF CONTACT.—The Secretary shall des-
22 ignate, as a point of contact to receive reports of harass-
23 ment and sexual assault—

24 “(1) at least one individual at each facility of
25 the Department, with regards to that facility;

1 “(2) at least one individual employed in each
2 Veterans Integrated Service Network (‘VISN’), with
3 regards to facilities in that VISN; and

4 “(3) at least one individual employed at the
5 Central Office of the Department to track reports of
6 harassment across the Department, disaggregated
7 by facility.

8 “(c) REPORTING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
9 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of
10 the Senate and the House of Representatives an annual
11 report on harassment and sexual assault in facilities of
12 the Department. Each such report shall include the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(1) Results of harassment and sexual assault
15 programming, including the End Harassment pro-
16 gram.

17 “(2) Results of studies from the Women’s
18 Health Practice Based Research Network related to
19 harassment and sexual assault.

20 “(3) Data collected on incidents of sexual har-
21 assment and sexual assault.

22 “(4) A description of any actions taken by the
23 Secretary during the year preceding the date of the
24 report to stop harassment and sexual assault at fa-
25 cilities of the Department.

1 “(5) An assessment of the implementation of
2 the training required in subsection (a)(5).

3 “(6) A list of resources the Secretary deter-
4 mines necessary to prevent harassment and sexual
5 assault at facilities of the Department.”.

6 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
7 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
8 after the item relating to section 532 the following new
9 item:

 “533. Anti-harassment and anti-sexual assault policy.”.

10 (c) DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall carry out sec-
11 tion 533 of such title, as added by subsection (a), not later
12 than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.