

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 912
OFFERED BY M . _____

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “American Indian and
3 Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act”.

4 SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION OUT-
5 REACH TO MINORITY VETERANS AND AMER-
6 ICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE VET-
7 ERANS.

8 (a) STAFFING REQUIREMENT.—Beginning not later
9 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
10 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that each
11 medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs has
12 not fewer than one full-time employee whose responsibility
13 is serving as a minority veteran coordinator.

14 (b) TRAINING.—Not later than 180 days after the
15 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-
16 sultation with the Director of the Indian Health Service
17 and the Director of the Office of Mental Health and Sui-
18 cide Prevention of the Department of Veterans Affairs,

1 shall ensure that all minority veteran coordinators receive
2 training in the delivery of culturally appropriate mental
3 health and suicide prevention services to American Indian
4 and Alaska Native veterans, especially with respect to the
5 identified populations and tribes within the coordinators'
6 catchment areas.

7 (c) COORDINATION WITH SUICIDE PREVENTION CO-
8 ORDINATORS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of
9 the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation
10 with the Director of the Office of Mental Health and Sui-
11 cide Prevention, shall ensure that the suicide prevention
12 coordinator and minority veteran coordinator of each med-
13 ical center of the Department have developed and dissemi-
14 nated to the director of the medical center a written plan
15 for conducting mental health and suicide prevention out-
16 reach to all tribes and urban Indian health organizations
17 within the catchment area of the medical center. Each
18 such plan shall include for each tribe covered by the
19 plan—

20 (1) contact information for tribal leadership
21 and the tribal health facility or Indian Health Serv-
22 ice facility serving that tribe;

23 (2) a schedule for and list of outreach plans
24 (including addressing any barriers to accessing De-
25 partment mental health care); and

1 (3) documentation of any conversation with
2 tribal leaders that may guide culturally appropriate
3 delivery of mental health care to American Indian or
4 Alaska Native veterans.

5 (d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
6 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
7 to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
8 the House of Representatives a report on outreach efforts
9 to minority veterans and American Indian and Alaska Na-
10 tive veterans. Such report shall include each of the fol-
11 lowing:

12 (1) The number of minority veteran coordina-
13 tors within the Department.

14 (2) The number and percentage of minority vet-
15 eran coordinators who are women.

16 (3) The number and percentage of minority vet-
17 eran coordinators who are persons of color.

18 (4) The number and percentage of Department
19 medical centers with minority veteran coordinators.

20 (5) The number and percentage of Department
21 mental health providers who are enrolled members of
22 a federally recognized Indian tribe or self-identify as
23 Native American.

1 (6) The number and percentage of Department
2 mental health providers who speak a second lan-
3 guage.

4 (7) A review of the outreach plans developed
5 and submitted to all Department medical centers for
6 outreach to American Indian and Alaska Native vet-
7 erans.

8 (8) A review of mental health care provided an-
9 nually by the Department to American Indian and
10 Alaska Native veterans for the past three years, in-
11 cluding number of appointments, and an assessment
12 of any barriers to providing this care.

13 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NA-**
14 **TIVE TRIBES UNDER DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
15 **ERANS AFFAIRS GOVERNORS CHALLENGE**
16 **PROGRAM.**

17 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a
18 grant program to be known as the “Governors Challenge
19 Program” under which the Secretary shall provide tech-
20 nical assistance to States and American Indian and Alaska
21 Native tribes for the development of veteran suicide pre-
22 vention activities.

