

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3811

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the quality of care difference between behavioral and mental health care provided by health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs compared to non-Department providers.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2023

Mr. FALLON (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the quality of care difference between behavioral and mental health care provided by health care providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs compared to non-Department providers.

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 Mental and  
5 Behavioral Health Quality of Care Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON QUALITY OF CARE DIFFERENCE BE-**  
2 **TWEEN BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH**  
3 **CARE PROVIDED BY HEALTH CARE PRO-**  
4 **VIDERS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
5 **FAIRS COMPARED TO NON-DEPARTMENT**  
6 **PROVIDERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
8 shall conduct a study on the quality of care difference be-  
9 tween behavioral and mental health care under the laws  
10 administered by the Secretary provided by health care pro-  
11 viders of the Department of Veterans Affairs compared  
12 to non-Department providers.

13 (b) CONDUCT OF STUDY.—The Secretary shall con-  
14 duct the study under subsection (a) through the use of  
15 an independent and objective organization outside the De-  
16 partment.

17 (c) MATTERS TO BE STUDIED.—In conducting the  
18 study under subsection (a), the Secretary shall deter-  
19 mine—

20 (1) any differences in health outcomes for vet-  
21 erans between care from providers of the Depart-  
22 ment and non-Department providers, including  
23 symptom scores and suicide risk;

24 (2) if non-Department providers are using evi-  
25 dence-based practices in the treatment of behavioral  
26 and mental health issues; and

1           (3) potential gaps in coordination between pro-  
2           viders of the Department and non-Department pro-  
3           viders in responding to individuals seeking behav-  
4           ioral or mental health care.

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 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-  
9 resentatives a report on the study conducted under sub-  
10 section (a).

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