

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5645

To require the evaluation and standardization of suicide prevention efforts by the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 20, 2021

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself and Mr. GALLEGO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the evaluation and standardization of suicide prevention efforts by the Department of Defense, 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 “Save Our
5 Servicemembers Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. EVALUATION AND STANDARDIZATION OF SUICIDE**
2 **PREVENTION EFFORTS BY THE DEPARTMENT**
3 **OF DEFENSE.**

4 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Defense for Per-
6 sonnel and Readiness shall—

7 (1) direct the Defense Suicide Prevention Office
8 to collaborate with each Secretary of a military de-
9 partment—

10 (A) to develop and implement a process to
11 ensure that individual non-clinical suicide pre-
12 vention efforts are assessed for effectiveness
13 among members of the Armed Forces; and

14 (B) to develop consistent suicide-related
15 definitions to be used throughout the Depart-
16 ment of Defense;

17 (2) require the use of suicide-related definitions
18 developed under paragraph (1)(B) to be used in any
19 updated policies of the Department of Defense or
20 any military department; and

21 (3) enhance collaboration between the Defense
22 Suicide Prevention Office and the Psychological
23 Health Center of Excellence on the production of an-
24 nual suicide reports to minimize duplication of ef-
25 forts by the Department of Defense.