

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9485

To amend title 38, United States Code, to permit the voluntary transmission of patient contact information to certain religious or faith-based organizations by chaplains employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

Mr. SELF introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to permit the voluntary transmission of patient contact information to certain religious or faith-based organizations by chaplains employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Enhancing Faith-  
5 Based Support for Veterans Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. VOLUNTARY TRANSMISSION OF PATIENT CONTACT**  
2 **INFORMATION TO CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS**  
3 **BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
4 **CHAPLAINS.**

5 Subchapter III of chapter 17 of title 38, United  
6 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
7 lowing new section (and conforming the table of sections  
8 at the beginning of such chapter accordingly):

9 **“§ 1730D. Voluntary transmission by Department**  
10 **chaplains of patient contact information**  
11 **to certain religious or faith-based organi-**  
12 **zations**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a patient on  
14 whom a chaplain employed by the Department has con-  
15 ducted a spiritual assessment, such chaplain may, at the  
16 election of the patient, transmit the contact information  
17 of such patient to a non-Department religious or faith-  
18 based organization specified by such patient.

19 “(b) SPIRITUAL ASSESSMENT DEFINED.—In this  
20 section, the term ‘spiritual assessment’ means an evalua-  
21 tion of a patient entitled to receive medical treatment  
22 under this chapter by a chaplain employed by the Depart-  
23 ment to—

24 “(1) gather spiritual information about such  
25 patient; and

1                   “(2) inform the medical treatment plan of such  
2           patient, if applicable.”.

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