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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To establish certain requirements relating to wellness checks for the health and welfare of certain members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ARRINGTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish certain requirements relating to wellness checks for the health and welfare of certain members of the Armed Forces, 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. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO WELLNESS**
4 **CHECKS FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE OF CER-**
5 **TAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

6 (a) WELLNESS CHECKS.—

7 (1) WELLNESS CHECKS REQUIRED.—The Sec-
8 retary of Defense shall issue such regulations, poli-

1 cies, and procedures as may be necessary to require
2 that, whenever appropriate following a member of
3 the Armed Forces sustaining any significant injury
4 or illness or being on sick call, a wellness check is
5 conducted to account for the health and welfare of
6 such member.

7 (2) METHODS OF CONTACT.—In conducting a
8 wellness check for a member of the Armed Forces
9 pursuant to paragraph (1), if the member does not
10 respond to such check conducted via an electronic or
11 telephone communication method, the individual con-
12 ducting the check shall progress to an in-person
13 method of contact.

14 (3) RESULT OF FAILURE TO LOCATE.—If, as a
15 result of a wellness check conducted pursuant to
16 paragraph (1) for a member of the Armed Forces,
17 the individual conducting such check is unable to lo-
18 cate such member, the individual shall refer to the
19 applicable regulations, policies, and procedures of
20 the Department of Defense regarding the determina-
21 tion and reporting of such member as missing, ab-
22 sent unknown, absent without leave, or duty status-
23 whereabouts unknown.

24 (b) IMPLEMENTATION BY UNIT COMMANDERS.—In
25 carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of Defense shall

1 ensure that each unit commander coordinates with the
2 judge advocates assigned or attached to, or performing
3 duty with, the unit under the command of such com-
4 mander for assistance in the implementation of any regu-
5 lation, policy, or procedure required under subsection (a)
6 with respect to such unit.

7 (c) ADDITIONAL ACTIONS BY UNIT COMMANDERS.—

8 On a routine basis, each unit commander shall—

9 (1) review the requirements contained in the
10 document titled “Commander’s Critical Information
11 Requirements”, dated January 2020, or such suc-
12 cessor document, to ensure such requirements—

13 (A) have been issued or updated during
14 the three-year period preceding any such re-
15 view;

16 (B) reflect such medical issues or safety
17 incidents of members of the Armed Forces that
18 the commander deems sufficiently significant;
19 and

20 (C) have been distributed to the unit under
21 the command of such commander; and

22 (2) host confidential wellness meetings with
23 subordinate commanders at which such commanders
24 may discuss with one or more medical officers as-
25 signed to such unit any significant injuries or ill-

1 nesses affecting members of the Armed Forces serv-
2 ing in or with such unit.

3 (d) TRAINING COURSES.—Each Secretary concerned,
4 and the Secretary of Defense with respect to civilian per-
5 sonnel of the Department of Defense, shall develop and
6 implement training courses to ensure each member of an
7 Armed Force under the jurisdiction of that Secretary (or
8 each civilian employee of the Department of Defense, re-
9 spectively) is aware of the importance of accountability
10 with respect to health and welfare and of the significant
11 negative outcomes that may occur when accountability
12 procedures fail. Such courses shall be offered at leadership
13 and supervisor trainings and shall include content relating
14 to the conduct of wellness checks in accordance with sub-
15 section (a) and other related actions.

16 (e) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this sec-
17 tion, the term “Secretary concerned” has the meaning
18 given such term in section 101(a) of title 10, United
19 States Code.