119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, and the United States Housing Act of 1937, to make certain improvements to the supported housing program for veterans commonly known as ''HUD-VASH'', and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. WARREN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, and the United States Housing Act of 1937, to make certain improvements to the supported housing program for veterans commonly known as ''HUD-VASH'', and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2026''.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR CASE MANAGERS OF THE VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION WITH REGARD TO HOMELESS VETERANS AND VETERANS AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2003(b) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''The Secretary'';

(2) by inserting '', and who is determined to require case management,'' before ''is assigned''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(2) In assigning case managers and providing services under this subsection, the Secretary shall prioritize vulnerable homeless veterans, including homeless veterans who have disabilities (including chronic mental illness, chronic substance abuse disorders, or chronic physical disabilities).''.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall submit to Congress an annual report on the HUD-VASH program.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall include, for the year covered by the report, each of the following, disaggregated by local-

ity and demographics (as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines appropriate):

(A) An identification of the number and demographic characteristics of veterans served by the HUD-VASH program.

(B) The number, qualifications, and demographics of case managers described in section 2003(b) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection (a).

(C) An assessment of the standard and scope of care provided by such case managers to such veterans, including factors such as—

(i) staffing ratios;

(ii) practices used in case management;

(iii) frequency with which a case manager contacts a veteran;

(iv) whether a case manager successfully connects a veteran to a requested resource or support; and

(v) professional licenses or certifications possessed by case managers.

(D) An assessment of the types of services provided by such case managers to such veterans.

(E) With regard to vouchers made available under the HUD-VASH program—

(i) the number requested;

(ii) the number allocated;

(iii) the number used;

(iv) the number assigned but unused; and

(v) the average time between such assignation and such use.

(F) The percentage of such veterans who used such a voucher and received case management from such a case manager.

(G) An identification of barriers that prevented the use of such vouchers by such veterans.

SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO HUD-VASH PROGRAM.

Section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''the amounts specified in subparagraph (B)'' and inserting ''amounts''; and

(B) by striking the second sentence;

(2) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

"(B) ADMINISTRATION.—In administering the program described in subparagraph (A)—

"(i) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide rental assistance on behalf of a veteran who is—

"(I) homeless;

"(II) at risk of homelessness; or

"(III) receiving assistance under another housing assistance program if the Secretary determines a voucher under this paragraph is a more appropriate form of assistance for such veteran;

"(ii) subject to subparagraph (D), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall furnish case management to a veteran described in clause (i) whom such Secretary (acting through an appropriately licensed or otherwise qualified employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs or an entity that participates in a centralized or coordinated assessment system (as defined in section 578.3 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulation) of the Department of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment) determines requires case management;

"(iii) in the case of a veteran described in clause (ii) who refuses case management—

"(I) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

"(aa) make recurring attempts to engage and build a relationship with the veteran, in order to provide such case management to the veteran, solicit feedback from the veteran, and promote the veteran's housing stability and opportunities to access health care and other benefits under laws administered by the Secretary; and

"(bb) provide case management to such veteran if the veteran subsequently requests case management;

"(II) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may not revoke such rental assistance on behalf

of the veteran solely on the basis of such refusal;

''(III) a public housing authority may not revoke rental assistance provided by such authority on behalf of the veteran solely on the basis of such refusal; and

''(IV) the owner may not evict or otherwise penalize the veteran solely on the basis of such refusal; and

''(iv) in the case of a veteran described in clause (ii) whose case management is suspended for the health and safety of the veteran or the case manager, the owner may not evict or otherwise penalize the veteran solely on the basis of such suspension.'';

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (F); and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraphs:

''(D) VETERANS WHO DO NOT REQUIRE CASE MANAGEMENT.—A voucher made available under this paragraph may be used for a homeless veteran, or a veteran at risk of homeless-

ness, whom the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines does not require case management if such use is included in the notice of operating requirements of the program described in subparagraph (A).

''(E) ADMINISTRATIVE FEES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall issue notice specifying the payments for administrative fees that may be made to public housing agencies for—

''(I) the costs of administering vouchers under this paragraph; and

''(II) other eligible expenses to facilitate the use of the vouchers, such as security deposit assistance and other costs related to retaining and supporting participating owners.

''(ii) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the payments described in clause (i).''.

SEC. 4. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT ON HOMELESS VETERANS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing the following, disaggregated by demographics (as the Comptroller General determines appropriate):

(1) A description of the demographic characteristics of veterans served by the HUD-VASH program, disaggregated by whether the veteran is receiving services from a case manager described in section 2003(b) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 2.

(2) The number, qualifications, and demographic characteristics of such case managers.

(3) An assessment of the types and quality of case management services provided to veterans by case managers described in section 2003(b) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 2, disaggregated by locality.

(4) An assessment of recruitment and retention of such case managers, disaggregated by locality and demographic characteristics.

(5) Metrics regarding housing stability and retention for veterans participating in Federal housing

assistance programs, including veterans who have participated in more than one such program and reasons why veterans ceased to so participate.

(b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 5. HUD-VASH PROGRAM DEFINED.

In this Act, the term ''HUD-VASH program'' means the program carried out under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)), as amended by section 3.