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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve assistance and support services for caregivers of veterans.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. HUDSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve assistance and support services for caregivers of veterans.

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 “Care for the Veteran  
5        Caregiver Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PROGRAM OF COM-**  
2 **PREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CARE-**  
3 **GIVERS.**

4 (a) **EXTENDED STIPEND PAYMENTS.**—Subpara-  
5 graph (C) of paragraph (3) of section 1720G(a) of title  
6 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
7 clause (iv) the following new clause:

8 “(v) If an eligible veteran dies during the period in  
9 which the Secretary provides to the family caregiver of  
10 such veteran assistance under subparagraph (A), the Sec-  
11 retary shall continue to provide to the family caregiver  
12 medical care under section 1781 of this title and the  
13 monthly personal caregiver stipend for not less than a six-  
14 month period following the date of such death. The Sec-  
15 retary may extend such period for all, or groups of, family  
16 caregivers of eligible veterans specified in paragraph  
17 (2)(C).”.

18 (b) **ELIGIBILITY FOR THE PROGRAM OF COM-**  
19 **PREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS.**—

20 (1) **STANDARDIZED EVALUATION CRITERIA.**—

21 Subparagraph (D) of paragraph (3) of such section  
22 is amended—

23 (A) by striking “In providing” and insert-  
24 ing “(i) In providing”; and

25 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
26 clause:

1           “(ii) In conducting periodic evaluations under clause  
2 (i), the Secretary shall ensure that the criteria used in  
3 conducting such evaluations, the methods by which such  
4 criteria are assessed, the measurements and standards  
5 used, and the evaluation process and review methods used,  
6 are standardized across all facilities of the Department  
7 and Veteran Integrated Service Networks.”.

8           (2) PERMANENT ELIGIBILITY.—Subparagraph  
9 (C) of such paragraph is amended—

10                   (A) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause  
11 (v); and

12                   (B) by inserting after clause (iii) the fol-  
13 lowing new clause:

14           “(iv) Based upon the criteria specified in clause  
15 (iii), the Secretary shall establish a process by which  
16 veterans who are determined to have the most sig-  
17 nificant need for caregiver assistance are perma-  
18 nently eligible under this subsection.”.

19           (c) STANDARDIZED APPLICATION PROCEDURES.—  
20 Paragraph (5) of such section is amended to read as fol-  
21 lows:

22           “(5)(A) For each application submitted jointly by an  
23 eligible veteran and family member, the Secretary shall  
24 evaluate (in collaboration with the primary care team for  
25 the eligible veteran to the maximum extent practicable)—

1 “(i) the eligible veteran——

2 “(I) to identify the personal care services  
3 required by the eligible veteran; and

4 “(II) to determine whether such require-  
5 ments could be significantly or substantially  
6 satisfied through the provision of personal care  
7 services from a family member; and

8 “(ii) the family member to determine the  
9 amount of instruction, preparation, and training, if  
10 any, the family member requires to provide the per-  
11 sonal care services required by the eligible veteran——

12 “(I) as a provider of personal care services  
13 for the eligible veteran; and

14 “(II) as the primary provider of personal  
15 care services for the eligible veteran.

16 “(B) In establishing and evaluating the applications  
17 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure that  
18 the criteria used in accepting and evaluating such applica-  
19 tions, the methods by which such applications are evalu-  
20 ated, the measurements and standards used, and the eval-  
21 uation process and review methods used, are standardized  
22 across all facilities of the Department and Veteran Inte-  
23 grated Service Networks.”.

24 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such section is  
25 further amended——

1           (1) in paragraph (6), by striking “under para-  
2           graph (5)(B)” and inserting “under paragraph  
3           (5)(A)(ii)”; and

4           (2) in paragraph (7)(B), by striking “under  
5           paragraph (5)(A)(i)” and inserting “under para-  
6           graph (5)(A)(i)(I)”