

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 80

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve the ability of Members of Congress to assist constituents with respect to benefits for veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, and Mrs. LESKO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve the ability of Members of Congress to assist constituents with respect to benefits for 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 “Phoenix VA Congres-
5 sional Oversight Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE CONSTITUENT SERV-**
2 **ICES.**

3 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
4 fairs shall carry out a pilot program to improve the ability
5 of Members of Congress to assist constituents pursuant
6 to subsections (b) and (c).

7 (b) CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS TEAM.—In carrying
8 out the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary
9 shall establish a dedicated congressional relations team at
10 the location specified in subsection (d). Such team shall
11 consist of employees of the Department of Veterans Af-
12 fairs whose only duties relate to assisting Members and
13 committees of Congress with respect to casework issues
14 at each health care system of the Department in such loca-
15 tion.

16 (c) USE OF SPACE.—Upon request of any Member
17 of Congress from the State of the location specified in sub-
18 section (d), the Secretary shall authorize the Member to
19 use a facility of the Department at such location for the
20 purposes of meeting with constituents of the Member.

21 (d) LOCATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the
22 pilot program in Arizona, including at the Phoenix health
23 care system of the Department.

24 (e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
25 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
26 to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of

- 1 Representatives and the Senate a report on the pilot pro-
- 2 gram under subsection (a), including whether the Sec-
- 3 retary recommends expanding such pilot program.

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