

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8484

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID–19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2020

Mr. DAVIDSON of Ohio (for himself, Mr. O’HALLERAN, Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. GABBARD, and Mr. WALKER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to secure medical opinions for veterans with service-connected disabilities who die from COVID–19 to determine whether their service-connected disabilities were the principal or contributory causes of death, 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 “Ensuring Survivors  
5 Benefits during COVID–19 Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEDICAL OPINIONS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS WITH**  
2 **SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES WHO DIE**  
3 **OF COVID-19.**

4 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall secure a med-  
5 ical opinion to determine if a service-connected disability  
6 was the principal or contributory cause of death of a vet-  
7 eran if each of the following criteria apply with respect  
8 to such death:

9 (1) The veteran had one or more service-con-  
10 nected disabilities at the time of death.

11 (2) The death certificate—

12 (A) identifies Coronavirus Disease 2019  
13 (COVID-19) as the principal or contributory  
14 cause of death; and

15 (B) does not clearly identify any of the  
16 service-connected disabilities as the principal or  
17 contributory cause of death.

18 (3) An individual has filed a claim for benefits  
19 under chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code.

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