

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1510

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of cameras in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. REPORT ON USE OF CAMERAS IN MEDICAL FA-**
2 **CILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
3 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than one year
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
6 of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Office of Op-
7 erations, Security, and Preparedness of the Department
8 of Veterans Affairs, the Veterans Health Administration,
9 and the Office of Construction and Facilities Management
10 of the Department, shall submit to the Committees on
11 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the House of Rep-
12 resentatives a report analyzing the policies, use, and main-
13 tenance of cameras deployed by the Department for pa-
14 tient safety and law enforcement at medical facilities of
15 the Department.

16 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—The report required by subsection
17 (a) shall include the following:

18 (1) A comprehensive review of the policies and
19 procedures of the Department regarding the use and
20 maintenance of cameras with respect to the fol-
21 lowing:

22 (A) Patient safety, including—

23 (i) an analysis of how cameras are
24 used to monitor staff and patients;

25 (ii) an analysis of the specific units
26 within medical facilities in which the use of

1 cameras is prioritized to protect patient
2 safety;

3 (iii) an analysis of the procedures re-
4 garding the positioning of cameras;

5 (iv) an analysis of the extent to which
6 cameras monitor locations where drugs are
7 stored to ensure that drugs are accounted
8 for, and an assessment of whether this is
9 a widely used practice; and

10 (v) an analysis of the actions taken to
11 preserve and protect patient privacy.

12 (B) Law enforcement of medical facilities
13 of the Department, including—

14 (i) how exterior cameras are used;

15 (ii) how interior cameras are used;

16 and

17 (iii) an analysis of locations, interior
18 and exterior, in which camera use is
19 prioritized.

20 (2) Recommendations of the Secretary to im-
21 prove patient safety and law enforcement, includ-
22 ing—

23 (A) the placement and maintenance of
24 cameras;

25 (B) the storage of data from such cameras;

1 (C) the authority of supervisors at medical
2 facilities of the Department to review record-
3 ings from cameras;

4 (D) the number of staff required to mon-
5 itor live footage from cameras at each medical
6 facility of the Department;

7 (E) the funding necessary to address
8 shortfalls with respect to cameras and the spe-
9 cific uses for such funding;

10 (F) any additional actions required to pre-
11 serve and protect patient privacy; and

12 (G) such other matters the Secretary de-
13 termines appropriate.

14 (c) CAMERA DEFINED.—In this section, the term
15 “camera” means any video camera used in a medical facil-
16 ity of the Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes
17 of patient safety or law enforcement, but does not include
18 cameras used solely by the Inspector General of the De-
19 partment of Veterans Affairs to assist in criminal inves-
20 tigation conducted by the Inspector General.

Passed the House of Representatives May 18, 2021.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.