

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1656

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to furnish stellate ganglion block to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2021

Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. TAYLOR, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, and Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense to furnish stellate ganglion block to veterans and members of the Armed Forces with post-traumatic stress disorder, 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 “Treatment and Relief  
5 through Emerging and Accessible Therapy for PTSD Act”  
6 or the “TREAT PTSD Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROVISION OF STELLATE GANGLION BLOCK TO**  
2 **VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE ARMED**  
3 **FORCES WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DIS-**  
4 **ORDER.**

5 (a) PROVISION TO VETERANS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17  
7 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-  
8 ing at the end the following new section:

9 **“§ 1720K. Provision of stellate ganglion block for cer-**  
10 **tain veterans**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall furnish stel-  
12 late ganglion block to any veteran who—

13 “(1) is enrolled in the patient enrollment sys-  
14 tem under section 1705 of this title;

15 “(2) has been diagnosed with post-traumatic  
16 stress disorder; and

17 “(3) has elected to receive stellate ganglion  
18 block after being informed by a qualified health care  
19 provider of the risks and benefits of stellate ganglion  
20 block.

21 “(b) PROVISION OF CARE.—The Secretary may fur-  
22 nish stellate ganglion block under subsection (a) through  
23 a medical facility of the Department or through a health  
24 care provider specified in section 1703(c) of this title.”.

25 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
26 tents at the beginning of chapter 17 of title 38,

1 United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
2 the item relating to section 1720J the following new  
3 item:

“1720K. Provision of stellate ganglion block for certain veterans.”.

4 (b) PROVISION TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED  
5 FORCES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 10,  
7 United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
8 section 1074o the following new section:

9 **“§ 1074p. Provision of stellate ganglion block for cer-**  
10 **tain members**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall furnish stel-  
12 late ganglion block to any member of the Armed Forces  
13 (including the reserve components) who is performing or  
14 has performed active service and who—

15 “(1) is enrolled in the TRICARE program  
16 under chapter 55 of this title;

17 “(2) has been diagnosed with post-traumatic  
18 stress disorder; and

19 “(3) has elected to receive stellate ganglion  
20 block after being informed by a qualified health care  
21 provider of the risks and benefits of stellate ganglion  
22 block.

23 “(b) PROVISION OF CARE.—The Secretary may fur-  
24 nish stellate ganglion block under subsection (a) through  
25 a medical facility of the Department or through a qualified

1 health care provider participating in a Department admin-  
2 istered TRICARE health insurance program.”.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
4 tents at the beginning of chapter 55 of title 10,  
5 United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
6 the item relating to section 1074o the following new  
7 item:

“1074p. Provision of stellate ganglion block for certain members.”.

8 (c) UPDATE OF JOINT CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDE-  
9 LINE.—

10 (1) UPDATE OF GUIDELINE.—Not later than  
11 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
12 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary  
13 of Defense shall update the guideline published  
14 jointly by the Secretaries and titled the “VA/DOD  
15 Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) for the Manage-  
16 ment of PTSD” (or such successor guideline) to en-  
17 sure the guideline—

18 (A) reflects the availability of stellate gan-  
19 glion block as a therapy option; and

20 (B) includes information on the clinical in-  
21 dicators and contraindicators for such therapy  
22 option.

23 (2) NOTIFICATION.—Upon updating the guide-  
24 line under paragraph (1), the Secretaries shall notify

1 the appropriate congressional committees of such  
2 update.

3 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
4 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-  
5 propriate congressional committees” means—

6 (A) the congressional defense committees  
7 (as such term is defined in section 101 of title  
8 10, United States Code); and

9 (B) the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of  
10 the House of Representatives and the Senate.

11 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
12 subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date that  
13 is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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