

One Hundred Seventeenth Congress
of the
United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Sunday,
the third day of January, two thousand and twenty one*

An Act

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of
the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY ON
DISPARITIES ASSOCIATED WITH RACE AND ETHNICITY
WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN BENEFITS ADMINISTERED
BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

(a) **STUDY REQUIRED.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study—

(1) to assess whether there are disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to—

(A) compensation benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

(B) disability ratings determined by the Secretary, with specific consideration of disability evaluations based on pain; and

(C) the rejection of fully developed claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary; and

(2) to develop recommendations to facilitate better data collection on the disparities described in paragraph (1).

(b) **INITIAL BRIEFING.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall brief Congress on the initial results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(c) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 240 days after the date on which the briefing required by subsection (b) is conducted, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a final report setting

S. 1031—2

forth the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), including the recommendations developed under paragraph (2) of such subsection.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*