

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 89

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Ms. SINEMA (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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 Survivor
5 Benefits During COVID–19 Act of 2021”.

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

4 In any case in which a veteran with one or more serv-
5 ice-connected disabilities dies, the death certificate identi-
6 fies Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) as the prin-
7 cipal or contributory cause of death, the death certificate
8 does not clearly identify any of the service-connected dis-
9 abilities as the principal or contributory cause of death,
10 and a claim for benefits is filed with respect to the veteran
11 under chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code, the Sec-
12 retary of Veterans Affairs shall secure a medical opinion
13 to determine if a service-connected disability was the prin-
14 cipal or contributory cause of death.

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