

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2216

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2019

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to formally recognize caregivers of veterans, notify veterans and caregivers of clinical determinations relating to eligibility for caregiver programs, and temporarily extend benefits for veterans who are determined ineligible for the family caregiver program, 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 “Transparency and Ef-  
5 fective Accountability Measures for Veteran Caregivers  
6 Act” or the “TEAM Veteran Caregivers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATION OF CARE-**  
2 **GIVER PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
3 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) OFFICIAL DESIGNATION OF CAREGIVERS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans  
6 Affairs shall formally recognize all caregivers of vet-  
7 erans by identifying any caregiver of a veteran in  
8 the health record of the veteran.

9 (2) INCLUSION.—Caregivers recognized under  
10 paragraph (1) shall include—

11 (A) family caregivers participating in the  
12 program of comprehensive assistance for family  
13 caregivers under subsection (a) of section  
14 1720G of title 38, United States Code; and

15 (B) caregivers participating in the program  
16 of support services for caregivers under sub-  
17 section (b) of such section.

18 (b) NOTIFICATION LETTERS REGARDING CLINICAL  
19 DETERMINATIONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, using a  
21 standardized letter, shall notify veterans and care-  
22 givers of veterans regarding any clinical determina-  
23 tions made relating to claims under, or eligibility for,  
24 a caregiver program under subsection (a) or (b) of  
25 section 1720G of title 38, United States Code.

1           (2) ELEMENTS.—Notifications under paragraph  
2           (1) shall include the elements required for notices of  
3           decisions under section 5104(b) of title 38, United  
4           States Code, to the extent that those elements apply  
5           to claims or eligibility determinations under para-  
6           graph (1).

7           (c) TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF BENEFITS FOR FAM-  
8           ILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—Upon determining that a  
10          veteran who was receiving services under the pro-  
11          gram of comprehensive assistance for family care-  
12          givers under section 1720G(a) of title 38, United  
13          States Code, is no longer clinically eligible for pur-  
14          poses of such program, the Secretary shall extend  
15          benefits under such program, including stipends  
16          under paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(V) of such section, for  
17          not less than 90 days after the date of notification  
18          under subsection (b) that the veteran is no longer  
19          clinically eligible.

20          (2) EXCLUSION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply  
21          to the termination of caregiver benefits—

22                 (A) for cause, including—

23                         (i) noncompliance with requirements  
24                         of the program; or

25                         (ii) fraud;

- 1 (B) because the veteran died; or
- 2 (C) upon request of the caregiver or the
- 3 veteran.

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