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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to establish a pilot program to help State prisons and local jails improve the documentation of incarcerated veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CROW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To direct the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to establish a pilot program to help State prisons and local jails improve the documentation of incarcerated veterans.

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 “Justice Involved Vet-
5 erans Support Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Approximately 181,000 veterans are incar-
2 cerated in the United States.

3 (2) More than half of all veterans involved in
4 the criminal justice system suffer from a mental
5 health condition or substance abuse disorder.

6 (3) Such veterans may be at a greater risk for
7 suicide.

8 (4) Veterans released from incarceration have
9 specialized needs and face different issues relating to
10 reentry into society.

11 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE DOCUMENTATION OF**
12 **INCARCERATED VETERANS.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Attorney General, in
14 consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall
15 carry out a pilot program to provide grants and technical
16 assistance to State prisons and local jails to improve docu-
17 mentation of whether inmates of such institutions are vet-
18 erans.

19 (b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of the pilot program
20 are the following:

21 (1) To assist the Secretary in providing benefits
22 to incarcerated veterans under laws administered by
23 the Secretary.

1 (2) To assist veterans affairs offices of States
2 in providing benefits to incarcerated veterans under
3 laws administered by such offices.

4 (3) To increase the number of veterans involved
5 in the criminal justice system whose cases are di-
6 verted to veterans treatment courts.

7 (c) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients under
8 the pilot program, the Attorney General shall give priority
9 to State prisons and local jails located in—

10 (1) States that contain the greatest populations
11 of veterans per capita;

12 (2) States with the highest rates of veterans liv-
13 ing in poverty; and

14 (3) jurisdictions that contain a veterans treat-
15 ment court or veterans diversion program.

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “vet-
17 erans treatment court” and “veterans diversion program”
18 mean a State or local court that is participating in the
19 veterans treatment court program (as defined in section
20 2991(i)(1) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets
21 Act of 1968; 34 U.S.C. 10651(i)(1)).