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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to promote certain benefits available to veterans in the course of preseparation counseling under the Transition Assistance program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to promote certain benefits available to veterans in the course of preseparation counseling under the Transition Assistance program of the Department of Defense, 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 “TAP Promotion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PRESENTATION BY A VETERANS SERVICE ORGANI-**
2 **ZATION IN TAP PRESEPARATION COUN-**
3 **SELING.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1142(b) of title 10,
5 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
6 following new paragraph:

7 “(20) A presentation that promotes the benefits
8 available to veterans under laws administered by the
9 Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Such presentation—

10 “(A) shall be standardized;

11 “(B) shall be previously reviewed and ap-
12 proved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

13 “(C) shall be submitted by the Secretary of
14 Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Vet-
15 erans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
16 resentatives for review at least 90 days before
17 implementation;

18 “(D) shall be presented by—

19 “(i) a national representative of a vet-
20 erans service organization recognized
21 under section 5902 of title 38; or

22 “(ii) if a national representative is un-
23 available, a State or local representative of
24 such an organization authorized by the
25 Secretary concerned to so present;

1 “(E) shall include information on how a
2 veterans service organization may assist the
3 member in filing a claim described in paragraph
4 (19);

5 “(F) may not encourage the member to
6 join a particular veterans service organization;
7 and

8 “(G) may not exceed one hour in length.”.

9 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less than once each year
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
11 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on
12 Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representa-
13 tives a report—

14 (1) that identifies each veterans service organi-
15 zation that presented under paragraph (20) of sec-
16 tion 1142(b) of title 10, United States Code, as
17 added by subsection (a);

18 (2) that contains the number of members of the
19 Armed Forces who attended such presentations; and

20 (3) that includes any recommendations of the
21 Secretary regarding changes to such presentation or
22 to such paragraph.