

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To increase cooperation between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve processing of claims for veterans benefits.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 1st Sess.**

**H. R. 1735**

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and  
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. HELLER to  
the amendment (No. 1463) proposed by Mr. MCCAIN

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

2 **SEC. 1085. INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DE-**

3 **PARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE DEPART-**

4 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPROVE**

5 **PROCESSING OF CLAIMS FOR VETERANS**

6 **BENEFITS.**

7 (a) PROCEDURES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans

9 Affairs and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly de-

1       velop and implement procedures to improve the  
2       timely provision to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
3       of such information as the Secretary requires to  
4       process claims submitted to the Secretary for bene-  
5       fits under laws administered by the Secretary.

6               (2) **TIMELY PROVISION.**—The procedures devel-  
7       oped and implemented under paragraph (1) shall en-  
8       sure that the information provided to the Secretary  
9       of Veterans Affairs is provided to the Secretary not  
10      later than 30 days after the date on which the Sec-  
11      retary requests the information.

12      (b) **ANNUAL REPORTS.**—Not less frequently than  
13      once each year, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall  
14      submit to Congress a report on—

15              (1) the requests for information made by the  
16      Secretary during the most recent one-year period for  
17      information from the Secretary of Defense required  
18      by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to process  
19      claims submitted to the Secretary for benefits under  
20      laws administered by the Secretary; and

21              (2) the timeliness of responses to such requests.