

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9819

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to furnish to certain veterans items used for the secure storage of firearms, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. DELUZIO (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. LANDSMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to furnish to certain veterans items used for the secure storage of firearms, 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 “Saving Our Veterans  
5 Lives Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
2 **TO FURNISH TO VETERANS ITEMS USED FOR**  
3 **SECURE STORAGE OF FIREARMS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of  
5 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
6 end the following new section:

7 **“§ 1720K. Program to furnish to eligible veterans**  
8 **items intended to be used for the secure**  
9 **storage of firearms**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a  
11 program to provide to an eligible veteran, upon the request  
12 of such eligible veteran—

13 “(1) a covered item; and

14 “(2) information relating to the benefits of, and  
15 options for, secure firearm storage.

16 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) The term ‘covered item’ means a lock box  
18 that—

19 “(A) is used for the secure storage of a  
20 firearm;

21 “(B) is designed and marketed to deny un-  
22 authorized access to, or render inoperable, a  
23 firearm or ammunition;

24 “(C) may be unlocked only by means of a  
25 key, combination, or other similar means;

1           “(D) is in compliance with the applicable  
2           standard of American Society for Testing Mate-  
3           rials;

4           “(E) is manufactured in the United States;  
5           and

6           “(F) is not eligible or intended for com-  
7           mercial or individual resale.

8           “(2) The term ‘eligible veteran’ means—

9           “(A) a veteran (as defined in section 101  
10          of this title); and

11          “(B) an individual described in section  
12          1720I(b) of this title.”.

13          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
14 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding  
15 after the item relating to section 1720J the following new  
16 item:

“1720K. Program to furnish to eligible veterans items intended to be used  
for the secure storage of firearms.”.

17          (c) EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The Secretary of  
18 Veterans Affairs shall—

19           (1) in consultation with representatives of orga-  
20           nizations and agencies that are subject to a memo-  
21           randum of understanding with the Secretary on pre-  
22           venting veteran suicide and other such entities as  
23           the Secretary determines appropriate—

1           (A) develop an informational video on se-  
2           cure storage of firearms as a suicide prevention  
3           strategy; and

4           (B) publish such informational video on an  
5           internet website of the Department; and

6           (2) publish information to inform individuals  
7           who participate in the program under section 1720K  
8           of title 38, United States Code (as added by sub-  
9           section (a)) that any lockbox furnished pursuant to  
10          such program is not eligible or intended for commer-  
11          cial or individual resale.

12          (d) PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.—The Secretary  
13 of Veterans Affairs shall design and carry out a public  
14 education campaign to educate veterans eligible for cov-  
15 ered items under the program established under section  
16 1720K of title 38, United States Code (as added by sub-  
17 section (a)), to inform such veterans of the availability of  
18 such covered items.

19          (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act,  
20 or the amendments made by this Act, may be construed  
21 to—

22           (1) collect personally identifiable information of  
23           an individual who participates in the program under  
24           section 1720K of title 38, United States Code (as

1 added by subsection (a)) for the purposes of track-  
2 ing firearm ownership;

3 (2) require any such individual to register a  
4 firearm with the Department of Veterans Affairs;

5 (3) require mandatory firearm storage for any  
6 such individual;

7 (4) prohibit any such individual from pur-  
8 chasing, owning, or possessing a firearm under sec-  
9 tion 922 of title 18, United States Code;

10 (5) discourage the lawful ownership of firearms;  
11 or

12 (6) create or maintain a list of individuals par-  
13 ticipating in such program.

14 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
15 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Vet-  
16 erans Affairs \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025  
17 through 2035 to carry out this section.

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