

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9475

To establish the National Task Force on Caregiving Youth.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2026

Mr. MCGARVEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish the National Task Force on Caregiving Youth.

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 “National Task Force
5 on Caregiving Youth of Veterans Act.”

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Caregiving youths provide unpaid care to
9 veterans and members of the Armed Forces with
10 disabilities, illnesses, or injuries.

1 (2) The care provided by youths to veterans
2 and members of the Armed Forces often includes
3 physical assistance, emotional support, household
4 management, and advocacy, which may adversely af-
5 fect their education, long term mental and physical
6 health, and economic opportunities.

7 (3) Research indicates that millions of
8 caregiving youths across the United States who pro-
9 vide care to members of the Armed Forces and vet-
10 erans face increased risks of academic disruption,
11 social isolation, and long-term health challenges.

12 (4) Caregiving youths who provide care to mem-
13 bers of the Armed Forces and veterans contribute
14 significantly to the well-being of members of the
15 Armed Forces and veterans and their families, re-
16 ducing institutional care needs and strengthening
17 family cohesion.

18 (5) Existing Federal programs do not ade-
19 quately identify or support caregiving youths who
20 provide care for member of the Armed Forces and
21 veterans, and there is no coordinated strategy across
22 agencies to address their needs.

23 (6) A national task force is necessary to assess
24 the scope of caregiving youths providing care for
25 members of the Armed Forces and veterans, support

1 ongoing research, and develop policy and pro-
2 grammatic solutions to ensure such youths receive
3 appropriate recognition and assistance.

4 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON**
5 **CAREGIVING YOUTH.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
8 Veterans Affairs shall establish the National Task Force
9 on Caregiving Youth (referred to in this section as the
10 “Task Force”).

11 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall be com-
12 posed of not fewer than 18 members, as follows:

13 (1) The Department of Veterans Affairs, in-
14 cluding a representative of each of the following des-
15 ignated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs:

16 (A) The Veteran Benefits Administration.

17 (B) The National Cemetery Administra-
18 tion.

19 (C) The Veteran Health Administration.

20 (D) The Caregiver Support Program.

21 (E) The Veterans Experience Office.

22 (2) The Department of Health and Human
23 Services, including a representative of each of the
24 following (or successor office) designated by the Sec-
25 retary of Health and Human Services:

1 (A) The Centers for Medicare and Med-
2 icaid Services.

3 (B) The Administration for Community
4 Living.

5 (C) The Indian Health Service.

6 (D) The Administration for Children and
7 Families.

8 (3) The Department of Education, including a
9 representative of each of the following (or successor
10 office) designated by the Secretary of Education:

11 (A) The Office of Elementary and Sec-
12 ondary Education Program.

13 (B) The Office of Special Education Pro-
14 grams.

15 (C) The Office of Student Support and Ac-
16 countability.

17 (4) The Department of Defense, including a
18 representative of each of the following (or successor
19 office) designated by the Secretary of Defense:

20 (A) The Department of Defense Education
21 Activity.

22 (B) The Office of Military Community and
23 Family Policy.

24 (C) The Defense Health Agency.

1 (5) One representative from each of three non-
2 profit organizations that specialize in military family
3 support, caregiving youth initiatives, mental health
4 advocacy, or educational access for caregivers des-
5 ignated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

6 (c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
7 fairs shall designate the Under Secretary of Veterans Af-
8 fairs for Health or designee to serve as Chairperson of
9 the Task Force.

10 (d) MEETINGS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall meet
12 at least once each calendar year quarter.

13 (2) QUORUM.—Two-thirds of the members of
14 the Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

15 (e) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force include
16 the following:

17 (1) Not later than 180 days after the establish-
18 ment of the Task Force, to seek to enter into an
19 agreement with a federally funded research and de-
20 velopment center to conduct a national study on
21 caregiving youth. Such study, which shall be com-
22 pleted not later than two years after the date of the
23 enactment of this Act, shall include the following:

1 (A) An analysis of the prevalence, demo-
2 graphics, and socio-economic impacts of
3 caregiving youth.

4 (B) Short- and long-term effects on the
5 education, employment, safety, and physical
6 and mental health caregiving youth.

7 (C) Geographic disparities in access of
8 caregiving youth to support services.

9 (D) Barriers to Federal, State, and local
10 assistance programs for caregiving youth.

11 (E) An identification of gaps in services
12 available for caregiving youth.

13 (F) An identification of the benefits of
14 caregiving for veterans, members of the Armed
15 Forces, and caregiving youth.

16 (2) Not later than 30 days after the establish-
17 ment of the Task Force, to consult directly with
18 stakeholders including—

19 (A) caregivers and survivors of veterans
20 and members of the Armed Forces;

21 (B) representatives of nonprofit organiza-
22 tions that specialize in military family support,
23 caregiving youth initiatives, mental health advoca-
24 cy, or educational access for caregivers; and

25 (C) relevant Federal advisory commissions.

1 (3) Not later than 180 days after the establish-
2 ment of the Task Force, to develop targeted policy
3 recommendations to Congress, and Federal, State,
4 and local agencies on how the Federal departments
5 represented on the Task Force pursuant to sub-
6 section (b) can expand program support, resources,
7 and accommodation for caregiving youths who pro-
8 vide care for members of the Armed Forces and vet-
9 erans, including—

10 (A) school-based resources and scholarship
11 programs;

12 (B) improved mental health support by in-
13 tegrating trauma-informed care for caregiving
14 youth within frameworks of such departments;

15 (C) creating support programs within each
16 such department; and

17 (D) establishing financial assistance mod-
18 els.

19 (4) To explore the feasibility and advisability of
20 the development of a standardized database to—

21 (A) track the demographics and services
22 used by caregiving youths who provide care for
23 members of the Armed Forces and veterans;

1 (B) develop joint initiatives between rel-
2 evant Federal agencies to provide comprehen-
3 sive support; and

4 (C) align Federal programs with State and
5 local resources to ensure no caregiving youth is
6 overlooked.

7 (5) To formalize nonprofit engagement by es-
8 tablishing a Caregiving Youth Advisory Council
9 that—

10 (A) is composed of advocates for care-
11 givers;

12 (B) hosts quarterly roundtables to incor-
13 porate front-line perspectives; and

14 (C) provides recommendations to relevant
15 Federal agencies regarding the allocation and
16 use of Federal grants to support non-profit or-
17 ganizations by expanding direct service pro-
18 grams for caregiving youth.

19 (6) To conduct a survey of all existing efforts
20 of Federal agencies to support caregiving youth, in-
21 cluding best practices and past and ongoing efforts
22 to collect data, research, and other relevant informa-
23 tion.

24 (f) AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS.—

25 The Task Force may enter into agreements with entities,

1 including academic institutions, research entities, and
2 nonprofit organizations, to assist in conducting the na-
3 tional study and developing policy recommendations.

4 (g) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

5 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Task
7 Force shall submit to Congress an initial report that
8 includes a description of the research methodology
9 and preliminary findings of the Task Force related
10 to the duties of the Task Force, including stake-
11 holder consultation, national study design, and early
12 policy considerations.

13 (2) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one
14 year after the date of the submission of the initial
15 report under paragraph (1), and annually thereafter
16 through the termination date specified under sub-
17 section (h), the Task Force shall submit to Congress
18 a report that describes the progress of the Task
19 Force on such duties, including updates, policy rec-
20 ommendations, Federal collaboration efforts, non-
21 profit engagement, and survey results.

22 (h) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate
23 on the day that is five years after the date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act.

1 (i) CAREGIVING YOUTH DEFINED.—In this section,
2 the term “caregiving youth” means an individual under
3 the age of 26—

4 (1) who provides unpaid care, including physical
5 assistance, emotional support, household manage-
6 ment, medication oversight, or advocacy, to a vet-
7 eran or member of the Armed Forces with a dis-
8 ability, chronic illness, or injury; and

9 (2) without regard to whether the individual or
10 the parent of the individual qualifies for the Pro-
11 gram of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Care-
12 givers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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