

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To develop a database of members of the Armed Forces who died in non-combat military plane crashes and to provide support to the families of such members, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To develop a database of members of the Armed Forces who died in non-combat military plane crashes and to provide support to the families of such members, 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 “Flight 293 Remem-
5 brance Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM TO SUPPORT FAMILIES OF MEMBERS OF**
2 **THE ARMED FORCES WHO DIED IN NON-COM-**
3 **BAT MILITARY PLANE CRASHES.**

4 (a) IDENTIFICATION.—Not later than one year after
5 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
6 Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs, shall—

8 (1) identify and document all non-combat mili-
9 tary plane crashes categorized as “Operational Loss/
10 Non-War Loss”—

11 (A) based on a thorough review of records
12 of the Department of Defense starting with cal-
13 endar year 1984; and

14 (B) for such crashes that occurred before
15 calendar year 1984, using information obtained
16 from other organizations; and

17 (2) develop and maintain a publicly accessible
18 database of the names, ranks, and service details of
19 all members of the Armed Forces who died in such
20 crashes.

21 (b) ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES.—The Secretary of
22 Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans
23 Affairs, shall provide assistance to the families of members
24 of the Armed Forces who died in crashes described in sub-
25 section (a)(1)—

1 (1) to ensure that those families are aware of
2 and have full access to the benefits, resources, and
3 support services available from the Department of
4 Defense;

5 (2) to offer personalized guidance on navigating
6 and applying for those benefits, resources, and serv-
7 ices, including financial assistance, counseling serv-
8 ices, and survivor benefits tailored to non-combat
9 losses; and

10 (3) to connect those families with community
11 and peer support networks that allow them to meet
12 and share experiences with others who have faced
13 similar losses.

14 (c) DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT.—The Sec-
15 retary of Defense shall establish a designated point of con-
16 tact within the Department of Defense—

17 (1) to be responsible for guiding families of
18 members of the Armed Forces who died in crashes
19 described in subsection (a)(1) through the benefits
20 process;

21 (2) to provide those families with updates on—

22 (A) the availability of new programs, serv-
23 ices, and benefits;

24 (B) changes to law that may affect the eli-
25 gibility of those families for support; and

1 (C) advancements in efforts to recover
2 members who died in crashes described in sub-
3 section (a)(1); and

4 (3) to liaise with relevant agencies, such as the
5 Department of Veterans Affairs, and local support
6 organizations to ensure those families receive coordi-
7 nated, streamlined assistance.

8 (d) CONSULTATIONS.—In carrying out this section,
9 the Secretary of Defense may consult with organizations
10 with knowledge of and expertise relating to crashes de-
11 scribed in subsection (a)(1).

12 (e) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 2 years
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
14 of Defense shall submit to Congress a report on efforts
15 carried out under this section that includes—

16 (1) the number of families receiving support
17 under subsection (b) and a description of the types
18 of support those families received;

19 (2) an assessment of progress made in devel-
20 oping the database required by subsection (a)(2)
21 that includes an estimate of the percentage of crash-
22 es described in subsection (a)(1) that have been in-
23 cluded in the database as of the date of the report;

24 (3) an assessment of the effectiveness of efforts
25 carried out under this section and the satisfaction of

1 the families of members of the Armed Forces who
2 died in crashes described in subsection (a)(1); and

3 (4) any recommendations for legislative changes
4 to improve efforts carried out under this section.

5 (f) NONDISCRIMINATION PROVISIONS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of applying
7 the prohibitions against discrimination on the basis
8 of disability under section 504 of the Rehabilitation
9 Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794), on the basis of sex
10 under title IX of the Education Amendments of
11 1972 (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.), or on the basis of
12 race, color, or national origin under title VI of the
13 Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.),
14 programs and activities funded or otherwise finan-
15 cially assisted in whole or in part under this section
16 to provide assistance to families under this section,
17 even if carried out directly by the Department of
18 Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs, are
19 considered to be education programs and activities
20 receiving Federal financial assistance.

21 (2) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary of Defense
22 and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall effec-
23 tuate the provisions of paragraph (1) by issuing reg-
24 ulations, applicable to officers or employees of the
25 Department of Defense or Department of Veterans

1 Affairs, respectively, who provide assistance under
2 this section directly, including provisions specifying
3 how the corresponding Secretary shall enforce the
4 regulations.