**The Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019**

**The Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019** (Pub. L. 116-171), was enacted on October 17, 2020. The Act requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to increase the services it provides for suicide prevention and mental health care and to collect and analyze medical data on veterans receiving mental health care from the department. Additional provisions include:

• The Veterans Administration (VA) will complete a study and report on the feasibility and advisability of providing complementary and integrative health treatments, at all VA medical facilities.

* Establishes the *Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program*, under which the VA will award grants for the provision of suicide prevention services to veterans and their families. Additional grants will also be provided for the expansion of telehealth capabilities and the provision of telehealth services to veterans.
* Based on the Creating Options for Veterans' Expedited Recovery (COVER) Commission final report, the VA must conduct a three-year pilot program to provide complementary and integrative health services to certain veterans from the VA or non-VA entities for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, or anxiety.
* The Government Accountability Office (GAO) will conduct a review of the staffing levels for mental health professionals of the VA.
* The VA will develop a clinical provider treatment toolkit and training materials for the evidence-based management of comorbid mental health conditions, comorbid mental health and substance use disorders, and a comorbid mental health condition and chronic pain.
* VA and Department of Defense (DOD), must issue an update to the VA/DOD Clinical Practice Guideline for Assessment and Management of Patients at Risk for Suicide that (1) considers gender-specific factors; and (2) includes guidance with respect to the efficacy of certain alternative therapies
* Section 405 of the law requires the Veterans Administration and Department of Defense to jointly establish a center of excellence for mental health care within two years of enactment.