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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To prohibit the use by the Department of Veterans Affairs of funds to provide emergency assistance at the southern border of the United States resulting from the repeal of certain public health orders, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WOMACK introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To prohibit the use by the Department of Veterans Affairs of funds to provide emergency assistance at the southern border of the United States resulting from the repeal of certain public health orders, 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 “Veterans First Act  
5 of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS BY DEPARTMENT**  
2 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PROVIDE EMER-**  
3 **GENCY ASSISTANCE AT THE SOUTHERN BOR-**  
4 **DER OF THE UNITED STATES RESULTING**  
5 **FROM THE REPEAL OF CERTAIN PUBLIC**  
6 **HEALTH ORDERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
8 may not obligate or expend any amounts to provide emer-  
9 gency assistance in response to an emergency at the south-  
10 ern border directly resulting from the repeal of an order  
11 specified in subsection (b).

12 (b) ORDER SPECIFIED.—An order specified in this  
13 subsection is any of the following:

14 (1) The Order issued by the Director of the  
15 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Au-  
16 gust 2, 2021, entitled “Public Health Reassessment  
17 and Order Suspending the Right To Introduce Cer-  
18 tain Persons From Countries Where a Quarantin-  
19 able Communicable Disease Exists” (86 Fed. Reg.  
20 42828).

21 (2) The Order issued by the Director of the  
22 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on April  
23 1, 2022, entitled “Public Health Determination and  
24 Order Regarding Suspending the Right To Intro-  
25 duce Certain Persons From Countries Where a

1 Quarantinable Communicable Disease Exists” (87  
2 Fed. Reg. 19941).

3 (3) An order relating to the same public health  
4 concern as an order specified in paragraph (1) or  
5 (2).

6 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
7 tion shall be construed to prevent the Secretary from obli-  
8 gating or expending amounts to provide emergency assist-  
9 ance at the southern border that is not described in sub-  
10 section (a).