

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3711

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assessment of the provision of health care services and the conduct of research by the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to women veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 1996

Ms. BROWN of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assessment of the provision of health care services and the conduct of research by the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to women veterans.

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 “Women Veterans
5 Health Assessment Act of 1996”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Health care for veterans has traditionally
2 been considered in terms of male veterans.

3 (2) Women constitute nearly 5 percent of the
4 total veteran population, a percentage that is grow-
5 ing.

6 (3) There are currently 1,200,000 female veter-
7 ans in the United States, a number which is steadily
8 increasing.

9 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE AND RE-**
10 **SEARCH.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 1999,
12 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
13 mittees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House of
14 Representatives a report on the provision of health care
15 services and the conduct of research carried out by, or
16 under the jurisdiction of, the Secretary relating to women
17 veterans. The report shall be prepared through the Center
18 for Women Veterans established under section 318 of title
19 38, United States Code, which shall prepare the report
20 in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Women
21 Veterans established under section 542 of that title.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a)
23 shall include the following information:

24 (1) The number of women veterans who have
25 received general health care services and the number

1 who have received gender-specific health care serv-
2 ices in facilities under the jurisdiction of the Sec-
3 retary (or the Secretary of Defense), shown by ref-
4 erence to the Department facility which provided
5 (or, in the case of Department of Defense facilities,
6 arranged for) those services.

7 (2) A description of—

8 (A) the services provided at each such fa-
9 cility;

10 (B) the type and amount of services pro-
11 vided by such personnel, including information
12 on the numbers of inpatient stays and the num-
13 ber of outpatient visits through which such
14 services were provided; and

15 (C) the extent to which each such facility
16 relies on contractual arrangements under sec-
17 tion 1703 or 8153 of title 38, United States
18 Code, to furnish care to women veterans in fa-
19 cilities which are not under the jurisdiction of
20 the Secretary where the provision of such care
21 is not furnished in a medical emergency.

22 (3) The steps taken by each such facility to ex-
23 pand the provision of services at such facility (or
24 under arrangements with the Department of De-
25 fense facility) to women veterans.

1 (4) A description of the personnel of the De-
2 partment who provided such services to women vet-
3 erans, including the number of employees (including
4 both the number of individual employees and the
5 number of full-time employee equivalents) and the
6 professional qualifications or specialty training of
7 such employees and the Department facilities to
8 which such personnel were assigned.

9 (5) A description of any actions taken by the
10 Secretary to ensure the retention of the personnel
11 described in paragraph (4) and any actions under-
12 taken to recruit such additional personnel or person-
13 nel to replace such personnel.

14 (6) An assessment by the Secretary of any dif-
15 ficulties experienced by the Secretary in the furnish-
16 ing of such services and the actions taken by the
17 Secretary to resolve such difficulties.

18 (7) A description (as of October 1 of the year
19 preceding the year in which the report is submitted)
20 of the status of any research relating to women vet-
21 erans being carried out by or under the jurisdiction
22 of the Secretary.

23 (8) A description of the actions taken by the
24 Secretary to foster and encourage the expansion of
25 such research.

1 (9) A description of any psychological intimidati-
2 tion of women veterans who seek health care from
3 the Department, together with the relative preva-
4 lence of diagnosis referred to as the “it’s all in your
5 head” syndrome.

6 (10) A description of the range in ages for
7 women veterans who seek care at Department medi-
8 cal facilities, together with a determination as to
9 whether younger women veterans (women in their
10 fifties) are more likely, or less likely, to seek care at
11 Department medical facilities than older women vet-
12 erans (women in their seventies).

13 (11) A description of deficiencies relating to pa-
14 tient privacy for women veterans in Department
15 medical facilities.

16 (12) A description of any difficulty experienced
17 by the Secretary in compiling any of the information
18 required for the submission of such report.

19 **SEC. 4. POPULATION STUDY.**

20 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, sub-
21 ject to subsection (f), shall conduct a study to determine
22 the needs of women veterans for health care services. The
23 study shall be carried out through the Center for Women
24 Veterans.

1 (b) CONSULTATION.—Before carrying out the study,
2 the Secretary shall request the advice of the Advisory
3 Committee on Women Veterans on the conduct of the
4 study.

5 (c) PERSONS TO BE INCLUDED IN SAMPLE OF VET-
6 ERANS STUDIED.—The study shall be based on—

7 (1) an appropriate sample of veterans who are
8 women; and

9 (2) an examination of the medical and demo-
10 graphic histories of the women comprising such sam-
11 ple.

12 (d) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall submit to the
13 Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and House
14 of Representatives reports relating to the study as follows:

15 (1) Not later than January 1, 1998, an interim
16 report describing (A) the information and advice ob-
17 tained by the Secretary from the Advisory Commit-
18 tee on Women Veterans, and (B) the status of the
19 study.

20 (2) Not later than January 1, 2000, a final re-
21 port describing the results of the study.

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