

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H.R. 3253

**HOUSE AMENDMENT TO
SENATE AMENDMENTS**

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

September 17, 2002.

Resolved, That the House agree to the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3253) entitled “An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment within the Department of Veterans Affairs of improved emergency medical preparedness, research, and education programs to combat terrorism, and for other purposes”, with the following

HOUSE AMENDMENT TO SENATE AMENDMENTS:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, insert the following:

1 ***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.***

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Department of Veterans*
3 *Affairs Emergency Preparedness Act of 2002”.*

4 ***SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAL EMERGENCY PRE-***
5 ***PAREDNESS CENTERS AT DEPARTMENT OF***
6 ***VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS.***

7 *(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter II of chapter 73 of*
8 *title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the*
9 *end the following new section:*

1 **“§ 7325. Medical emergency preparedness centers**

2 “(a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.—(1) The Sec-*
3 *retary shall establish four medical emergency preparedness*
4 *centers in accordance with this section. Each such center*
5 *shall be established at a Department medical center and*
6 *shall be staffed by Department employees.*

7 “(2) *The Under Secretary for Health shall be respon-*
8 *sible for supervising the operation of the centers established*
9 *under this section. The Under Secretary shall provide for*
10 *ongoing evaluation of the centers and their compliance with*
11 *the requirements of this section.*

12 “(3) *The Under Secretary shall carry out the Under*
13 *Secretary’s functions under paragraph (2) in consultation*
14 *with the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs with re-*
15 *sponsibility for operations, preparedness, security, and law*
16 *enforcement functions.*

17 “(b) *MISSION.—The mission of the centers shall be as*
18 *follows:*

19 “(1) *To carry out research on, and to develop*
20 *methods of detection, diagnosis, prevention, and treat-*
21 *ment of injuries, diseases, and illnesses arising from*
22 *the use of chemical, biological, radiological, incen-*
23 *diary or other explosive weapons or devices posing*
24 *threats to the public health and safety.*

25 “(2) *To provide education, training, and advice*
26 *to health care professionals, including health care pro-*

1 *professionals outside the Veterans Health Administration,*
2 *through the National Disaster Medical System estab-*
3 *lished pursuant to section 2811(b) of the Public*
4 *Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b)) or*
5 *through interagency agreements entered into by the*
6 *Secretary for that purpose.*

7 *“(3) In the event of a disaster or emergency re-*
8 *ferred to in section 1785(b) of this title, to provide*
9 *such laboratory, epidemiological, medical, or other as-*
10 *sistance as the Secretary considers appropriate to*
11 *Federal, State, and local health care agencies and*
12 *personnel involved in or responding to the disaster or*
13 *emergency.*

14 *“(c) SELECTION OF CENTERS.—(1) The Secretary*
15 *shall select the sites for the centers on the basis of a competi-*
16 *tive selection process. The Secretary may not designate a*
17 *site as a location for a center under this section unless the*
18 *Secretary makes a finding under paragraph (2) with re-*
19 *spect to the proposal for the designation of such site. To*
20 *the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure*
21 *the geographic dispersal of the sites throughout the United*
22 *States. Any such center may be a consortium of efforts of*
23 *more than one medical center.*

24 *“(2) A finding by the Secretary referred to in para-*
25 *graph (1) with respect to a proposal for designation of a*

1 *site as a location of a center under this section is a finding*
2 *by the Secretary, upon the recommendations of the Under*
3 *Secretary for Health and the Assistant Secretary with re-*
4 *sponsibility for operations, preparedness, security, and law*
5 *enforcement functions, that the facility or facilities submit-*
6 *ting the proposal have developed (or may reasonably be an-*
7 *ticipated to develop) each of the following:*

8 “(A) *An arrangement with a qualifying medical*
9 *school and a qualifying school of public health (or a*
10 *consortium of such schools) under which physicians*
11 *and other persons in the health field receive education*
12 *and training through the participating Department*
13 *medical facilities so as to provide those persons with*
14 *training in the detection, diagnosis, prevention, and*
15 *treatment of injuries, diseases, and illnesses induced*
16 *by exposures to chemical and biological substances,*
17 *radiation, and incendiary or other explosive weapons*
18 *or devices.*

19 “(B) *An arrangement with a graduate school*
20 *specializing in epidemiology under which students re-*
21 *ceive education and training in epidemiology through*
22 *the participating Department facilities so as to pro-*
23 *vide such students with training in the epidemiology*
24 *of contagious and infectious diseases and chemical*
25 *and radiation poisoning in an exposed population.*

1 “(C) *An arrangement under which nursing, so-*
2 *cial work, counseling, or allied health personnel and*
3 *students receive training and education in recog-*
4 *nizing and caring for conditions associated with ex-*
5 *posures to toxins through the participating Depart-*
6 *ment facilities.*

7 “(D) *The ability to attract scientists who have*
8 *made significant contributions to the development of*
9 *innovative approaches to the detection, diagnosis, pre-*
10 *vention, or treatment of injuries, diseases, and ill-*
11 *nesses arising from the use of chemical, biological, ra-*
12 *diological, incendiary or other explosive weapons or*
13 *devices posing threats to the public health and safety.*

14 “(3) *For purposes of paragraph (2)(A)—*

15 “(A) *a qualifying medical school is an accredited*
16 *medical school that provides education and training*
17 *in toxicology and environmental health hazards and*
18 *with which one or more of the participating Depart-*
19 *ment medical centers is affiliated; and*

20 “(B) *a qualifying school of public health is an*
21 *accredited school of public health that provides edu-*
22 *cation and training in toxicology and environmental*
23 *health hazards and with which one or more of the*
24 *participating Department medical centers is affili-*
25 *ated.*

1 “(d) *RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.*—Each center shall con-
2 duct research on improved medical preparedness to protect
3 the Nation from threats in the area of that center’s exper-
4 tise. Each center may seek research funds from public and
5 private sources for such purpose.

6 “(e) *DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH PRODUCTS.*—(1)
7 The Under Secretary for Health and the Assistant Secretary
8 with responsibility for operations, preparedness, security,
9 and law enforcement functions shall ensure that informa-
10 tion produced by the research, education and training, and
11 clinical activities of centers established under this section
12 is made available, as appropriate, to health-care providers
13 in the United States. Dissemination of such information
14 shall be made through publications, through programs of
15 continuing medical and related education provided through
16 regional medical education centers under subchapter VI of
17 chapter 74 of this title, and through other means. Such pro-
18 grams of continuing medical education shall receive pri-
19 ority in the award of funding.

20 “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that the work of the
21 centers is conducted in close coordination with other Fed-
22 eral departments and agencies and that research products
23 or other information of the centers shall be coordinated and
24 shared with other Federal departments and agencies.

1 “(f) *COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.*—*The Secretary*
2 *shall take appropriate actions to ensure that the work of*
3 *each center is carried out—*

4 “(1) *in close coordination with the Department*
5 *of Defense, the Department of Health and Human*
6 *Services, and other departments, agencies, and ele-*
7 *ments of the Government charged with coordination of*
8 *plans for United States homeland security; and*

9 “(2) *after taking into consideration applicable*
10 *recommendations of the working group on the preven-*
11 *tion, preparedness, and response to bioterrorism and*
12 *other public health emergencies established under sec-*
13 *tion 319F(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42*
14 *U.S.C. 247d–6(a)) or any other joint interagency ad-*
15 *visory group or committee designated by the President*
16 *or the President’s designee to coordinate Federal re-*
17 *search on weapons of mass destruction.*

18 “(g) *ASSISTANCE TO OTHER AGENCIES.*—*The Sec-*
19 *retary may provide assistance requested by appropriate*
20 *Federal, State, and local civil and criminal authorities in*
21 *investigations, inquiries, and data analyses as necessary to*
22 *protect the public safety and prevent or obviate biological,*
23 *chemical, or radiological threats.*

24 “(h) *DETAIL OF EMPLOYEES FROM OTHER AGEN-*
25 *CIES.*—*Upon approval by the Secretary, the Director of a*

1 center may request the temporary assignment or detail to
2 the center, on a nonreimbursable basis, of employees from
3 other departments and agencies of the United States who
4 have expertise that would further the mission of the center.
5 Any such employee may be so assigned or detailed on a
6 nonreimbursable basis pursuant to such a request.

7 “(i) *FUNDING.*—(1) Amounts appropriated for the ac-
8 tivities of the centers under this section shall be appro-
9 priated separately from amounts appropriated for the De-
10 partment for medical care.

11 “(2) In addition to funds appropriated for a fiscal
12 year specifically for the activities of the centers pursuant
13 to paragraph (1), the Under Secretary for Health shall allo-
14 cate to such centers from other funds appropriated for that
15 fiscal year generally for the Department medical care ac-
16 count and the Department medical and prosthetics research
17 account such amounts as the Under Secretary determines
18 appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section. Any
19 determination by the Under Secretary under the preceding
20 sentence shall be made in consultation with the Assistant
21 Secretary with responsibility for operations, preparedness,
22 security, and law enforcement functions.

23 “(3) There are authorized to be appropriated for the
24 centers under this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal
25 years 2003 through 2007.”

1 (2) *The table of sections at the beginning of such chap-*
2 *ter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section*
3 *7324 the following new item:*

“7325. Medical emergency preparedness centers.”.

4 (b) *PEER REVIEW FOR DESIGNATION OF CENTERS.—*

5 *(1) In order to assist the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and*
6 *the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health in select-*
7 *ing sites for centers under section 7325 of title 38, United*
8 *States Code, as added by subsection (a), the Under Sec-*
9 *retary shall establish a peer review panel to assess the sci-*
10 *entific and clinical merit of proposals that are submitted*
11 *to the Secretary for the designation of such centers. The peer*
12 *review panel shall be established in consultation with the*
13 *Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs with responsibility*
14 *for operations, preparedness, security, and law enforcement*
15 *functions.*

16 (2) *The peer review panel shall include experts in the*
17 *fields of toxicological research, infectious diseases, radi-*
18 *ology, clinical care of patients exposed to such hazards, and*
19 *other persons as determined appropriate by the Secretary.*
20 *Members of the panel shall serve as consultants to the De-*
21 *partment of Veterans Affairs.*

22 (3) *The panel shall review each proposal submitted to*
23 *the panel by the officials referred to in paragraph (1) and*
24 *shall submit to the Under Secretary for Health its views*
25 *on the relative scientific and clinical merit of each such pro-*

1 *posal. The panel shall specifically determine with respect*
2 *to each such proposal whether that proposal is among those*
3 *proposals which have met the highest competitive standards*
4 *of scientific and clinical merit.*

5 (4) *The panel shall not be subject to the Federal Advi-*
6 *sory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).*

7 **SEC. 3. EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ON MED-**
8 **ICAL RESPONSES TO CONSEQUENCES OF**
9 **TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.**

10 (a) *IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter II of chapter 73 of*
11 *title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding after*
12 *section 7325, as added by section 2(a)(1), the following new*
13 *section:*

14 **“§ 7326. Education and training programs on medical**
15 **response to consequences of terrorist ac-**
16 **tivities**

17 *“(a) EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall*
18 *carry out a program to develop and disseminate a series*
19 *of model education and training programs on the medical*
20 *responses to the consequences of terrorist activities.*

21 *“(b) IMPLEMENTING OFFICIAL.—The program shall be*
22 *carried out through the Under Secretary for Health, in con-*
23 *sultation with the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
24 *with responsibility for operations, preparedness, security,*
25 *and law enforcement functions.*

1 “(c) *CONTENT OF PROGRAMS.*—*The education and*
2 *training programs developed under the program shall be*
3 *modelled after programs established at the F. Edward*
4 *Hebért School of Medicine of the Uniformed Services Uni-*
5 *versity of the Health Sciences and shall include, at a min-*
6 *imum, training for health care professionals in the fol-*
7 *lowing:*

8 “(1) *Recognition of chemical, biological, radio-*
9 *logical, incendiary, or other explosive agents, weap-*
10 *ons, or devices that may be used in terrorist activi-*
11 *ties.*

12 “(2) *Identification of the potential symptoms of*
13 *exposure to those agents.*

14 “(3) *Understanding of the potential long-term*
15 *health consequences, including psychological effects,*
16 *resulting from exposure to those agents, weapons, or*
17 *devices.*

18 “(4) *Emergency treatment for exposure to those*
19 *agents, weapons, or devices.*

20 “(5) *An appropriate course of followup treat-*
21 *ment, supportive care, and referral.*

22 “(6) *Actions that can be taken while providing*
23 *care for exposure to those agents, weapons, or devices*
24 *to protect against contamination, injury, or other*
25 *hazards from such exposure.*

1 “(7) *Information on how to seek consultative*
2 *support and to report suspected or actual use of those*
3 *agents.*

4 “(d) *POTENTIAL TRAINEES.—In designing the edu-*
5 *cation and training programs under this section, the Sec-*
6 *retary shall ensure that different programs are designed for*
7 *health-care professionals in Department medical centers.*
8 *The programs shall be designed to be disseminated to health*
9 *professions students, graduate health and medical education*
10 *trainees, and health practitioners in a variety of fields.*

11 “(e) *CONSULTATION.—In establishing education and*
12 *training programs under this section, the Secretary shall*
13 *consult with appropriate representatives of accrediting, cer-*
14 *tifying, and coordinating organizations in the field of*
15 *health professions education.”.*

16 “(2) *The table of sections at the beginning of such chap-*
17 *ter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section*
18 *7325, as added by section 2(a)(2), the following new item:*

*“7326. Education and training programs on medical response to consequences of
terrorist activities.”.*

19 “(b) *EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-*
20 *airs shall implement section 7326 of title 38, United States*
21 *Code, as added by subsection (a), not later than the end*
22 *of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the enactment*
23 *of this Act.*

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO FURNISH HEALTH CARE DURING**
2 **MAJOR DISASTERS AND MEDICAL EMER-**
3 **GENCIES.**

4 *(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter VIII of chapter 17*
5 *of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at*
6 *the end the following new section:*

7 **“§1785. Care and services during certain disasters**
8 **and emergencies**

9 *“(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE HOSPITAL CARE AND*
10 *MEDICAL SERVICES.—During and immediately following a*
11 *disaster or emergency referred to in subsection (b), the Sec-*
12 *retary may furnish hospital care and medical services to*
13 *individuals responding to, involved in, or otherwise affected*
14 *by that disaster or emergency.*

15 *“(b) COVERED DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES.—A*
16 *disaster or emergency referred to in this subsection is any*
17 *disaster or emergency as follows:*

18 *“(1) A major disaster or emergency declared by*
19 *the President under the Robert B. Stafford Disaster*
20 *Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121*
21 *et seq.).*

22 *“(2) A disaster or emergency in which the Na-*
23 *tional Disaster Medical System established pursuant*
24 *to section 2811(b) of the Public Health Service Act*
25 *(42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b)) is activated by the Secretary*
26 *of Health and Human Services under paragraph*

1 (3)(A) of that section or as otherwise authorized by
2 law.

3 “(c) *APPLICABILITY TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO*
4 *ARE VETERANS.*—The Secretary may furnish care and
5 services under this section to an individual described in
6 subsection (a) who is a veteran without regard to whether
7 that individual is enrolled in the system of patient enroll-
8 ment under section 1705 of this title.

9 “(d) *REIMBURSEMENT FROM OTHER FEDERAL DE-*
10 *PARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.*—(1) The cost of any care or
11 services furnished under this section to an officer or em-
12 ployee of a department or agency of the United States other
13 than the Department or to a member of the Armed Forces
14 shall be reimbursed at such rates as may be agreed upon
15 by the Secretary and the head of such department or agency
16 or the Secretary concerned, in the case of a member of the
17 Armed Forces, based on the cost of the care or service fur-
18 nished.

19 “(2) Amounts received by the Department under this
20 subsection shall be credited to the Medical Care Collections
21 Fund under section 1729A of this title.

22 “(e) *REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.*—
23 Within 60 days of the commencement of a disaster or emer-
24 gency referred to in subsection (b) in which the Secretary
25 furnishes care and services under this section (or as soon

1 thereafter as is practicable), the Secretary shall submit to
2 the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the
3 House of Representatives a report on the Secretary's alloca-
4 tion of facilities and personnel in order to furnish such care
5 and services.

6 “(f) *REGULATIONS.*—The Secretary shall prescribe reg-
7 ulations governing the exercise of the authority of the Sec-
8 retary under this section.”

9 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of that chap-
10 ter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:
“1785. Care and services during certain disasters and emergencies.”

11 (b) *MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON ACTIVE*
12 *DUTY.*—Section 8111A(a) of such title is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
14 graph (4);

15 (2) by designating the second sentence of para-
16 graph (1) as paragraph (3); and

17 (3) by inserting between paragraph (1) and
18 paragraph (3), as designated by paragraph (2) of this
19 subsection, the following new paragraph:

20 “(2)(A) During and immediately following a disaster
21 or emergency referred to in subparagraph (B), the Secretary
22 may furnish hospital care and medical services to members
23 of the Armed Forces on active duty responding to or in-
24 volved in that disaster or emergency.

1 “(B) A disaster or emergency referred to in this sub-
2 paragraph is any disaster or emergency as follows:

3 “(i) A major disaster or emergency declared by
4 the President under the Robert B. Stafford Disaster
5 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121
6 et seq.).

7 “(ii) A disaster or emergency in which the Na-
8 tional Disaster Medical System established pursuant
9 to section 2811(b) of the Public Health Service Act
10 (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b)) is activated by the Secretary
11 of Health and Human Services under paragraph
12 (3)(A) of that section or as otherwise authorized by
13 law.”.

14 **SEC. 5. 10-YEAR EXTENSION OF EXPIRED AUTHORITY.**

15 Effective September 30, 2002, subsection (d) of section
16 1722A of title 38, United States Code, is amended by strik-
17 ing “September 30, 2002” and inserting “September 30,
18 2012”.

19 **SEC. 6. INCREASE IN NUMBER OF ASSISTANT SECRETARIES**
20 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

21 (a) *INCREASE*.—Subsection (a) of section 308 of title
22 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “six” in
23 the first sentence and inserting “seven”.

24 (b) *FUNCTIONS*.—Subsection (b) of such section is
25 amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

1 “(11) Operations, preparedness, security, and
2 law enforcement functions.”.

3 (c) *NUMBER OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.*—
4 Subsection (d)(1) of such section is amended by striking
5 “18” and inserting “19”.

6 (d) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Section 5315 of title
7 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “(6)” after
8 “Assistant Secretaries, Department of Veterans Affairs”
9 and inserting “(7)”.

10 **SEC. 7. CODIFICATION OF DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF VET-**
11 **ERANS AFFAIRS RELATING TO EMERGENCY**
12 **PREPAREDNESS.**

13 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—(1) Subchapter I of chapter 81 of
14 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
15 end the following new section:

16 **“§8117. Emergency preparedness**

17 “(a) *READINESS OF DEPARTMENT MEDICAL CEN-*
18 *TERS.*—(1) The Secretary shall take appropriate actions to
19 provide for the readiness of Department medical centers to
20 protect the patients and staff of such centers from chemical
21 or biological attack or otherwise to respond to such an at-
22 tack so as to enable such centers to fulfill their obligations
23 as part of the Federal response to public health emergencies.

24 “(2) Actions under paragraph (1) shall include—

1 “(A) *the provision of decontamination equip-*
2 *ment and personal protection equipment at Depart-*
3 *ment medical centers; and*

4 “(B) *the provision of training in the use of such*
5 *equipment to staff of such centers.*

6 “(b) *SECURITY AT DEPARTMENT MEDICAL AND RE-*
7 *SEARCH FACILITIES.—(1) The Secretary shall take appro-*
8 *priate actions to provide for the security of Department*
9 *medical centers and research facilities, including staff and*
10 *patients at such centers and facilities.*

11 “(2) *In taking actions under paragraph (1), the Sec-*
12 *retary shall take into account the results of the evaluation*
13 *of the security needs at Department medical centers and*
14 *research facilities required by section 154(b)(1) of the Pub-*
15 *lic Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Re-*
16 *sponse Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–188; 116 Stat. 631),*
17 *including the results of such evaluation relating to the fol-*
18 *lowing needs:*

19 “(A) *Needs for the protection of patients and*
20 *medical staff during emergencies, including a chem-*
21 *ical or biological attack or other terrorist attack.*

22 “(B) *Needs, if any, for screening personnel en-*
23 *gaged in research relating to biological pathogens or*
24 *agents, including work associated with such research.*

1 “(C) *Needs for securing laboratories or other fa-*
2 *cilities engaged in research relating to biological*
3 *pathogens or agents.*

4 “(c) *TRACKING OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND MEDICAL*
5 *SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.—The Secretary shall develop*
6 *and maintain a centralized system for tracking the current*
7 *location and availability of pharmaceuticals, medical sup-*
8 *plies, and medical equipment throughout the Department*
9 *health care system in order to permit the ready identifica-*
10 *tion and utilization of such pharmaceuticals, supplies, and*
11 *equipment for a variety of purposes, including response to*
12 *a chemical or biological attack or other terrorist attack.*

13 “(d) *TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure that the*
14 *Department medical centers, in consultation with the ac-*
15 *credited medical school affiliates of such medical centers,*
16 *develop and implement curricula to train resident physi-*
17 *cians and health care personnel in medical matters relating*
18 *to biological, chemical, or radiological attacks or attacks*
19 *from an incendiary or other explosive weapon.*

20 “(e) *PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL*
21 *SYSTEM.—(1) The Secretary shall establish and maintain*
22 *a training program to facilitate the participation of the*
23 *staff of Department medical centers, and of the community*
24 *partners of such centers, in the National Disaster Medical*

1 *System established pursuant to section 2811(b) of the Public*
2 *Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b)).*

3 “(2) *The Secretary shall establish and maintain the*
4 *training program under paragraph (1) in accordance with*
5 *the recommendations of the working group on the preven-*
6 *tion, preparedness, and response to bioterrorism and other*
7 *public health emergencies established under section 319F(a)*
8 *of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–6(a)).*

9 “(3) *The Secretary shall establish and maintain the*
10 *training program under paragraph (1) in consultation*
11 *with the following:*

12 “(A) *The Secretary of Defense.*

13 “(B) *The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-*
14 *ices.*

15 “(C) *The Director of the Federal Emergency*
16 *Management Agency.*

17 “(f) *MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—(1) With respect*
18 *to activities conducted by personnel serving at Department*
19 *medical centers, the Secretary shall develop and maintain*
20 *various strategies for providing mental health counseling*
21 *and assistance, including counseling and assistance for*
22 *post-traumatic stress disorder, following a bioterrorist at-*
23 *tack or other public health emergency to the following per-*
24 *sons:*

25 “(A) *Veterans.*

1 “(B) *Local and community emergency response*
2 *providers.*

3 “(C) *Active duty military personnel.*

4 “(D) *Individuals seeking care at Department*
5 *medical centers.*

6 “(2) *The strategies under paragraph (1) shall include*
7 *the following:*

8 “(A) *Training and certification of providers of*
9 *mental health counseling and assistance.*

10 “(B) *Mechanisms for coordinating the provision*
11 *of mental health counseling and assistance to emer-*
12 *gency response providers referred to in paragraph (1).*

13 “(3) *The Secretary shall develop and maintain the*
14 *strategies under paragraph (1) in consultation with the*
15 *Secretary of Health and Human Services, the American*
16 *Red Cross, and the working group referred to in subsection*
17 *(e)(2).”.*

18 “(2) *The table of sections at the beginning of such chap-*
19 *ter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section*
20 *8116 the following new item:*

 “8117. *Emergency preparedness.*”.

21 (b) *REPEAL OF CODIFIED PROVISIONS.*—*Subsections*
22 *(a), (b)(2), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of section 154 of the Public*
23 *Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Re-*
24 *sponse Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–188; 38 U.S.C. note*
25 *prec. 8101) are repealed.*

1 (c) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—*Subsection (g) of*
2 *such section is amended—*

3 (1) *in paragraph (1), by inserting “of section*
4 *8117 of title 38, United States Code” after “subsection*
5 *(a)”*; *and*

6 (2) *in paragraph (2), by striking “subsections*
7 *(b) through (f)” and inserting “subsection (b)(1) of*
8 *this section and subsections (b) through (f) of section*
9 *8117 of title 38, United States Code”.*

Attest:

Clerk.