

107TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5610

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to construct a comprehensive veterans medical center in southern Nevada that would include a full service hospital, an outpatient clinic, and a long-term care nursing home facility.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 10, 2002

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

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to construct a comprehensive veterans medical center in southern Nevada that would include a full service hospital, an outpatient clinic, and a long-term care nursing home facility.

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 “Southern Nevada Vet-
5 erans Medical Center Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Southern Nevada is one of the few regions
2 in the country with a growing veterans population.

3 (2) The Department of Veterans Affairs built
4 the Addeliar G. Guy III Ambulatory Care Clinic in
5 1997 to serve as the primary health care clinic for
6 southern Nevada.

7 (3) The Department of Veterans Affairs has re-
8 cently predicted that the number of annual visits by
9 veterans to their primary health care clinic would
10 rise from 198,608 in 1998 to 524,804 by 2010.

11 (4) The Department of Veterans Affairs has
12 had to abandon that clinic after finding substantial
13 structural defects in the building that houses the
14 clinic. The clinic is no longer structurally safe.

15 (5) The Department of Veterans Affairs is pro-
16 posing to relocate its surgical specialty, primary
17 care, medical specialty care, and mental health clin-
18 ics to nine separate geographic sites throughout
19 southern Nevada.

20 (6) Southern Nevada's veterans have been
21 forced to travel to veterans hospitals located in Cali-
22 fornia many hours away for essential hospital serv-
23 ices. The Department of Veterans Affairs issued
24 more than 1,500 referrals to southern California for
25 fiscal year 2002. Requiring veterans to travel great

1 distances for surgical and other procedures rep-
2 resents an unacceptable burden on southern Ne-
3 vada's veterans and their family support base.

4 (7) Southern Nevada's veterans are facing a
5 health care crisis. They have a fragmented clinic, no
6 Federal long-term care or nursing home facility, and
7 no full service hospital in southern Nevada.

8 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF SOUTHERN NEVADA VETERANS**
9 **MEDICAL CENTER FOR PATIENT CARE.**

10 (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is authorized
11 to carry out the construction of a major medical facility
12 project in southern Nevada. The project shall consist of
13 a new medical center consisting of a full service patient
14 care hospital, an outpatient clinic, and a comprehensive
15 long-term care nursing home facility.

16 (b) The Secretary is encouraged to co-locate the Vet-
17 erans Affairs regional office at the site of the new medical
18 center in order to provide services for veterans at a com-
19 mon site.

20 **SEC. 4. PARTNERSHIPS.**

21 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs is encouraged to
22 seek out partnerships with State and local government en-
23 tities for the purpose of sharing the cost of planning, land

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- 1 acquisition, and construction, and the cost of maintaining,
- 2 the center referred to in section 3.

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