

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2834

To provide for a pilot program to be conducted by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs through the establishment of an electronic database to enable healthcare facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Iowa to share patient information with the State of Iowa Veterans Home on patients of both those facilities and that home.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2003

Mr. LATHAM introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide for a pilot program to be conducted by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs through the establishment of an electronic database to enable healthcare facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Iowa to share patient information with the State of Iowa Veterans Home on patients of both those facilities and that home.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. PILOT PROGRAM FOR CREATION OF ELEC-**  
2 **TRONIC DATABASE OF AUTHORIZED PATIENT**  
3 **INFORMATION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
5 shall conduct a pilot program to determine the feasibility  
6 of electronically sharing individually identifiable health in-  
7 formation of patients of a facility of the Department of  
8 Veterans Affairs with State veterans homes. In order to  
9 conduct this pilot program, the Secretary shall enter into  
10 an agreement with the appropriate state official of Iowa  
11 to create an electronic database system that contains indi-  
12 vidually identifiable health information on any individual  
13 who is a patient of both a facility of the Department of  
14 Veterans Affairs in Iowa and the State of Iowa Veterans  
15 Home and who gives an authorization for inclusion of that  
16 information in the database.

17 (b) TERMS OF AGREEMENT.—The Secretary of Vet-  
18 erans Affairs shall require that the agreement under sub-  
19 section (a) include:

20 (1) Standards for determining which officials at  
21 the Iowa Veterans Home and at the Department of  
22 Veterans Affairs may access the database.

23 (2) Provisions for an individual to revoke any  
24 authorization given by that individual under sub-  
25 section (a).

1           (3) Provisions for removing any individually  
2           identifiable health information for which the indi-  
3           vidual revokes an authorization, pursuant to the  
4           standards described in paragraph (2).

5           (4) Such additional terms and conditions as the  
6           Secretary considers necessary to carry out the provi-  
7           sions of subsection (a).

8           (c) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—The Secretary of  
9           Veterans Affairs shall enter into the agreement under sub-  
10          section (a) not later than six months after the date of the  
11          enactment of this Act.

12          (d) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The pilot program  
13          shall be conducted during the three-year period beginning  
14          on the date of the enactment of this Act.

15          (e) REPORT.—Not later than six months after the  
16          end of the pilot program under this section, the Secretary  
17          of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report pro-  
18          viding the results of the pilot program. The Secretary shall  
19          include in the report the following:

20                 (1) The Secretary’s assessment of the benefits  
21                 to veterans of the pilot program.

22                 (2) The Secretary’s assessment of the effect of  
23                 the pilot program on the Department of Veterans  
24                 Affairs, including the effect on delivery of health  
25                 care to veterans.

1           (3) Any other findings and conclusions of the  
2 Secretary with respect to the pilot program.

3           (4) Any recommendations of the Secretary for  
4 continuation of the pilot program or for extension of  
5 the pilot program to other States.

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