

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2959

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the establishment of Parkinson's Disease Research Education and Clinical Centers in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 17, 2005

Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. BAKER, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. PICKERING, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. BLUMENAUER) 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 the establishment of Parkinson's Disease Research Education and Clinical Centers in the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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. PARKINSON'S DISEASE RESEARCH, EDU-**
4 **CATION, AND CLINICAL CENTERS.**

5 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CEN-
6 TERS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73
2 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-
3 ing at the end the following new section:

4 **“§ 7329. Parkinson’s disease research, education, and**
5 **clinical centers**

6 “(a) The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the
7 Under Secretary for Health and pursuant to the provi-
8 sions of this section, shall designate six Department
9 health-care facilities as the locations for centers of Parkin-
10 son’s Disease research, education, and clinical activities
11 and (subject to the appropriation of sufficient funds for
12 such purpose) shall establish and operate such centers at
13 such locations in accordance with this section.

14 “(b) In designating locations for centers under sub-
15 section (a), the Secretary, upon the recommendation of the
16 Under Secretary for Health, shall—

17 “(1) designate each Department health-care fa-
18 cility that as of January 1, 2005, was operating a
19 Parkinson’s Disease research, education, and clinical
20 center unless (on the recommendation of the Under
21 Secretary for Health) the Secretary determines that
22 such facility does not meet the requirements of sub-
23 section (c) or has not demonstrated effectiveness in
24 carrying out the established purposes of such center

1 or the potential to carry out such purposes effec-
2 tively in the reasonably foreseeable future; and

3 “(2) assure appropriate geographic distribution
4 of such facilities.

5 “(c) The Secretary may not designate a health-care
6 facility as a location for a center under subsection (a) un-
7 less the peer review panel established under subsection (d)
8 has determined under that subsection that the proposal
9 submitted by such facility as a location for a new center
10 under subsection (a) is among those proposals which have
11 met the highest competitive standards of scientific and
12 clinical merit, and the Secretary (upon the recommenda-
13 tion of the Under Secretary for Health) determines that
14 the facility has (or may reasonably be anticipated to de-
15 velop) each of the following:

16 “(1) An arrangement with an accredited med-
17 ical school which provides education and training in
18 neurology and with which such facility is affiliated
19 under which residents receive education and training
20 in innovative diagnosis and treatment of chronic
21 neurodegenerative diseases and movement disorders,
22 including Parkinson’s disease.

23 “(2) The ability to attract the participation of
24 scientists who are capable of ingenuity and creativity
25 in health-care research efforts.

1 “(3) A policymaking advisory committee com-
2 posed of appropriate health-care and research rep-
3 resentatives of the facility and of the affiliated
4 school or schools to advise the directors of such fa-
5 cility and such center on policy matters pertaining to
6 the activities of such center during the period of the
7 operation of such center.

8 “(4) The capability to conduct effectively eval-
9 uations of the activities of such center.

10 “(5) The capability to coordinate, as part of an
11 integrated national system, education, clinical, and
12 research activities within all facilities with such cen-
13 ters.

14 “(6) The capability to jointly develop a consor-
15 tium of providers with interest in treating
16 neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson’s
17 Disease, and other movement disorders, at facilities
18 without such centers in order to ensure better access
19 to state-of-the-art diagnosis, care, and education for
20 neurodegenerative disorders throughout the health
21 care system.

22 “(7) The capability to develop a national reposi-
23 tory for the collection of data on health services de-
24 livered to veterans seeking care for
25 neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkinson’s

1 Disease, and other movement disorders in the health
2 care system.

3 “(d)(1) The Under Secretary for Health shall estab-
4 lish a panel to assess the scientific and clinical merit of
5 proposals that are submitted to the Secretary for the es-
6 tablishment of new centers under this section.

7 “(2)(A) The membership of the panel shall consist
8 of experts in neurodegenerative diseases, including Parkin-
9 son’s Disease, and other movement disorders.

10 “(B) Members of the panel shall serve as consultants
11 to the Department for a period of no longer than two years
12 except in the case of panelists asked to serve on the initial
13 panel as specified in subparagraph (C).

14 “(C) In order to ensure panel continuity, half of the
15 members of the first panel shall be appointed for a period
16 of three years and half for a period of two years.

17 “(3) The panel shall review each proposal submitted
18 to the panel by the Under Secretary and shall submit its
19 views on the relative scientific and clinical merit of each
20 such proposal to the Under Secretary.

21 “(4) The panel shall not be subject to the Federal
22 Advisory Committee Act.

23 “(e) Before providing funds for the operation of any
24 such center at a health-care facility other than a health-
25 care facility designated under subsection (b)(1), the Sec-

1 retary shall assure that the center at each facility des-
2 ignated under such subsection is receiving adequate fund-
3 ing to enable such center to function effectively in the
4 areas of Parkinson's Disease research, education, and clin-
5 ical activities.

6 “(f) There are authorized to be appropriated such
7 sums as may be necessary for the support of the research
8 and education activities of the centers established pursu-
9 ant to subsection (a). The Under Secretary for Health
10 shall allocate to such centers from other funds appro-
11 priated generally for the Department medical services ac-
12 count and medical and prosthetics research account, as
13 appropriate, such amounts as the Under Secretary for
14 Health determines appropriate.

15 “(g) Activities of clinical and scientific investigation
16 at each center established under subsection (a) shall be
17 eligible to compete for the award of funding from funds
18 appropriated for the Department medical and prosthetics
19 research account and shall receive priority in the award
20 of funding from such account insofar as funds are award-
21 ed to projects for research in Parkinson's disease and
22 other movement disorders.”.

23 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
24 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended

1 by inserting after the item relating to section 7328
2 the following new item:

“7329. Parkinson’s disease research, education, and clinical centers.”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 7329 of title 38,
4 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take
5 effect on October 1, 2005.

○