

110TH CONGRESS
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H. R. 1944

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to screen certain veterans for symptoms of traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 2007

Mr. ALTMIRE (for himself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. HARE, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SPACE, Mr. KAGEN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. CASTOR, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to screen certain veterans for symptoms of traumatic brain injury, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Traumatic
3 Brain Injury Treatment Act of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. SCREENING, REHABILITATION, AND TREATMENT**
5 **FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.**

6 (a) SCREENING, REHABILITATION, AND TREATMENT
7 FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 38,
9 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new subchapter:

11 “SUBCHAPTER IX—TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
12 “§ 1791. **Screening for traumatic brain injuries**

13 “(a) SCREENING PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall es-
14 tablish a program to screen veterans who are eligible for
15 hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care
16 under section 1710(e)(1)(D) of this title for symptoms of
17 traumatic brain injury.

18 “(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
19 date of the enactment of this section, and annually there-
20 after, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on
21 Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of Rep-
22 resentatives a report containing the following information:

23 “(1) The number of veterans screened under
24 the program during the year preceding such report.

1 “(2) The prevalence of traumatic brain injury
2 symptoms among the veterans screened under the
3 program.

4 “(3) Recommendations for improving care and
5 services to veterans exhibiting symptoms of trau-
6 matic brain injury.

7 **“§ 1792. Comprehensive program for long-term trau-**
8 **matic brain injury rehabilitation**

9 “(a) COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM.—The Secretary
10 shall develop and carry out a comprehensive program of
11 long-term care for post-acute traumatic brain injury reha-
12 bilitation that includes residential, community, and home-
13 based components utilizing interdisciplinary treatment
14 teams.

15 “(b) LOCATION OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall
16 carry out the program developed under subsection (a) in
17 four geographically dispersed polytrauma network sites
18 designated by the Secretary.

19 “(c) ELIGIBILITY.—A veteran is eligible for care
20 under the program developed under subsection (a) if the
21 veteran is otherwise eligible for care under this chapter
22 and—

23 “(1) served on active duty in a theater of com-
24 bat operations (as determined by the Secretary in
25 consultation with the Secretary of Defense) during a

1 period of war after the Persian Gulf War, or in com-
2 bat against a hostile force during a period of hos-
3 tilities (as defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this
4 title) after November 11, 1998;

5 “(2) is diagnosed as suffering from moderate to
6 severe traumatic brain injury; and

7 “(3) is unable to manage routine activities of
8 daily living without supervision or assistance.

9 “(d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
11 the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’
12 Affairs of the Senate and the House of Representatives
13 a report containing the following information:

14 “(1) A description of the operation of the pro-
15 gram.

16 “(2) The number of veterans provided care
17 under the program during the year preceding such
18 report.

19 “(3) The annual cost of operating the program.

20 **“§ 1793. Traumatic brain injury transition offices**

21 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
22 lish a traumatic brain injury transition office at each De-
23 partment polytrauma network site for the purposes of co-
24 ordinating the provision of health-care and services to vet-
25 erans who suffer from moderate to severe traumatic brain

1 injuries and are in need of health-care and services not
2 immediately offered by the Department.

3 “(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary,
4 through each such office established under subsection (a),
5 shall have the authority to arrange for the provision of
6 health-care and services through cooperative agreements
7 with appropriate public or private entities that have estab-
8 lished long-term neurobehavioral rehabilitation and recov-
9 ery programs.

10 **“§ 1794. Traumatic brain injury registry**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
12 and maintain a registry to be known as the ‘Traumatic
13 Brain Injury Veterans’ Health Registry’ (in this section
14 referred to as the ‘Registry’).

15 “(b) DESCRIPTION.—The Registry shall include the
16 following information:

17 “(1) A list containing the name of each indi-
18 vidual who served as a member of the Armed Forces
19 in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi
20 Freedom who exhibits symptoms associated with
21 traumatic brain injury and who—

22 “(A) applies for care and services from the
23 Department under this chapter; or

24 “(B) files a claim for compensation under
25 chapter 11 of this title on the basis of any dis-

1 ability which may be associated with such serv-
 2 ice; and

3 “(2) any relevant medical data relating to the
 4 health status of an individual described in paragraph
 5 (1) and any other information the Secretary con-
 6 siders relevant and appropriate with respect to such
 7 an individual if the individual—

8 “(A) grants permission to the Secretary to
 9 include such information in the Registry; or

10 “(B) is deceased at the time such indi-
 11 vidual is listed in the Registry.

12 “(c) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify indi-
 13 viduals listed in the Registry of significant developments
 14 in research on the health consequences of military service
 15 in the Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi
 16 Freedom theaters of operations.”.

17 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
 18 tents at the beginning of such chapter is amended
 19 by adding at the end the following new items:

“SUBCHAPTER IX—TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

“1791. Screening for traumatic brain injuries.

“1792. Comprehensive program for long-term traumatic brain injury rehabilita-
 tion.

“1793. Traumatic brain injury transition offices.

“1794. Traumatic brain injury registry.”.

20 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary shall imple-
 21 ment the requirements of subchapter IX of title 38,

- 1 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), not later
- 2 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

