

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2192

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an Ombudsman within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2007

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an Ombudsman within 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. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF THE OMBUDS-**
4 **MAN IN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
5 **FAIRS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing new section:

1 **“§ 321. Office of the Ombudsman**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the De-
3 partment an Office of the Ombudsman (in this section re-
4 ferred to as the Office). The Secretary shall designate an
5 Ombudsman to carry out the duties of the Office.

6 “(b) DUTIES.—The Office shall act as a liaison for
7 veterans and their family members with respect to the re-
8 ceipt of health care and benefits administered by the De-
9 partment.

10 “(c) AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES.—The Secretary
11 shall ensure that the services of the Office are available
12 to all veterans and their family members.

13 “(d) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Any information provided
14 by veterans or their family members to the Office may
15 be disclosed only to the extent necessary to carry out the
16 duties of the Office.

17 “(e) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall make available
18 to each veteran, and to the family members of all veterans,
19 information on contacting and utilizing the services of the
20 Office.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
22 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
23 at the end the following new item:

“321. Office of the Ombudsman.”.

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