

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2874

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the provision of health care to veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 27, 2007

Mr. MICHAUD (for himself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HALL of New York, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. LOEBSACK, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, and Mr. HARE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the provision of health care to veterans, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Veterans’ Health Care Improvement Act of 2007”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—MATTERS RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

- Sec. 101. Grants for support of therapeutic readjustment programs for veterans.
- Sec. 102. Transportation grants for rural veterans service organizations.
- Sec. 103. Permanent treatment authority for participants in Department of Defense chemical and biological testing conducted by Deseret Test Center (including Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense).
- Sec. 104. Readjustment and mental health services for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom veterans.

TITLE II—MATTERS RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS

- Sec. 201. Staffing requirements for coordination of homeless veterans programs.
- Sec. 202. Availability of grant funds to service centers for personnel.
- Sec. 203. Improvement of payments for providing services to homeless veterans.
- Sec. 204. Emergency grants for replacement or repair of homeless veteran facilities.
- Sec. 205. Expansion and extension of authority for program of referral and counseling services for at-risk veterans transitioning from certain institutions.
- Sec. 206. Demonstration program on preventing veterans at-risk of homelessness from becoming homeless.
- Sec. 207. Permanent authority for domiciliary services for homeless veterans and enhancement of capacity of domiciliary care programs for female veterans.
- Sec. 208. Pilot program for provision of permanent housing for homeless veterans.
- Sec. 209. Financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.
- Sec. 210. Expansion of eligibility for dental care.

TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 301. Technical amendments.

1 **TITLE I—MATTERS RELATING**
 2 **TO HEALTH CARE**

3 **SEC. 101. GRANTS FOR SUPPORT OF THERAPEUTIC READ-**
 4 **JUSTMENT PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS.**

5 (a) Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 38, United
 6 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 521 the
 7 following new section:

1 **“§ 521A. Assistance to therapeutic readjustment pro-**
2 **grams**

3 “(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary may make
4 grants to qualified entities described in subsection (b) to
5 conduct workshop programs in the performing arts, public
6 speaking, writing, and culinary arts in order to further
7 the readjustment of veterans.

8 “(b) QUALIFIED ENTITIES.—A qualified entity de-
9 scribed in this subsection is a private nonprofit entity that
10 has expertise in conducting workshop programs or that
11 the Secretary determines offers a program that is likely
12 to improve the readjustment of veterans.

13 “(c) AMOUNT OF GRANT; USE OF FUNDS.—A grant
14 under this section shall not exceed \$100,000 for any cal-
15 endar year and shall be used exclusively for the benefit
16 of veterans.

17 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 is authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 to carry out
19 this section for each fiscal year.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
21 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
22 after the item relating to section 521 the following new
23 item:

“521A. Grants for therapeutic readjustment programs.”.

1 **SEC. 102. TRANSPORTATION GRANTS FOR RURAL VET-**
2 **ERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.**

3 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—Subchapter I of chapter 17
4 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at
5 the end the following new section:

6 **“§ 1708. Grants for provision of transportation to De-**
7 **partment medical facilities for veterans**
8 **in remote rural areas**

9 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
11 lish a grant program to provide innovative transpor-
12 tation options to veterans in remote rural areas.

13 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—Grants awarded under
14 this section may be used by State veterans’ service
15 agencies, veterans service organizations, and private
16 nonprofit entities to assist veterans in remote rural
17 areas to travel to Department medical facilities.

18 “(3) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a
19 grant under this section may not exceed \$50,000.

20 “(4) NO MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The re-
21 cipient of a grant under this section shall not be re-
22 quired to provide matching funds as a condition for
23 receiving such grant.

24 “(b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe
25 regulations for—

1 “(1) evaluating grant applications under this
2 section; and

3 “(2) otherwise administering the program es-
4 tablished by this section.

5 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 are authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for each of
7 fiscal years 2008 through 2012 to carry out this section.”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
9 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
10 after the item relating to section 1707 the following new
11 item:

 “1708. Grants for provision of transportation to Department medical facilities
 for veterans in remote rural areas.”.

12 **SEC. 103. PERMANENT TREATMENT AUTHORITY FOR PAR-**
13 **TICIPANTS IN DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**
14 **CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL TESTING CON-**
15 **DUCTED BY DESERET TEST CENTER (INCLUD-**
16 **ING PROJECT SHIPBOARD HAZARD AND DE-**
17 **FENSE).**

18 Section 1710(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code,
19 is amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and”
21 after the semicolon;

22 (2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “; and”
23 and inserting a period; and

24 (3) by striking subparagraph (D).

1 **SEC. 104. READJUSTMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**
2 **FOR OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM AND**
3 **OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM VETERANS.**

4 (a) PROVISION OF READJUSTMENT COUNSELING
5 AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—Subchapter II of
6 chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
7 by inserting after section 1712B the following new section:
8 **“§ 1712C. Provision of readjustment counseling and**
9 **mental health services for veterans of Op-**
10 **eration Enduring Freedom or Operation**
11 **Iraqi Freedom**

12 “(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—(1) The Secretary shall
13 carry out a program to provide peer outreach services,
14 peer support services, and readjustment and mental health
15 services to veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and
16 Operation Iraqi Freedom, with special emphasis on vet-
17 erans who served in such operations while in the National
18 Guard and the Reserves.

19 “(2) In carrying out the program required by para-
20 graph (1), the Secretary shall contract with community
21 mental health centers and other qualified entities to pro-
22 vide the services described in that paragraph in areas the
23 Secretary determines are not adequately served by health
24 care facilities of the Department. Such contracts shall re-
25 quire each community health center or other entity—

1 “(A) to the extent practicable, to employ vet-
2 erans trained under paragraph (3);

3 “(B) to the extent practicable, to use telehealth
4 services for the provision of such services;

5 “(C) to participate in the training program
6 under paragraph (4);

7 “(D) to comply with applicable protocols of the
8 Department before incurring any liability on behalf
9 of the Department for the provision of such the serv-
10 ices;

11 “(E) to submit annual reports to the Secretary
12 containing, with respect to the program required by
13 paragraph (1) and for the last full calendar year
14 ending before the submission of such report—

15 “(i) the number of veterans served, vet-
16 erans diagnosed, and courses of treatment pro-
17 vided to veterans as part of the program re-
18 quired by paragraph (1); and

19 “(ii) demographic information for such
20 services, diagnoses, and courses of treatment;

21 “(F) to provide to the Secretary such clinical
22 summary information as the Secretary may require
23 for each veteran for whom the center or entity pro-
24 vides mental health services under the contract; and

1 “(G) to meet such other requirements as the
2 Secretary may require.

3 “(3) In carrying out the program required by para-
4 graph (1), the Secretary shall contract with a nonprofit
5 mental health organization to carry out a program to train
6 veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation
7 Iraqi Freedom to provide peer outreach and peer support
8 services.

9 “(4) The Secretary shall conduct a training program
10 for clinicians of community mental health centers or other
11 entities that have entered into contracts with the Sec-
12 retary under paragraph (2) to ensure that such clinicians
13 are able to provide the services required by paragraph (1)
14 in a manner that—

15 “(A) recognizes factors that are unique to the
16 experience of veterans who served on active duty in
17 Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring
18 Freedom (including the combat and military training
19 experiences of such veterans); and

20 “(B) utilizes best practices and technologies.

21 “(b) SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO IMMEDIATE
22 FAMILY MEMBERS.—(1) The Secretary shall establish a
23 program to provide support and assistance to the imme-
24 diate family members of veterans of Operation Enduring
25 Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Under the pro-

1 gram, the Secretary shall provide to such a family mem-
2 ber—

3 “(A) educational materials, including edu-
4 cational materials designed for children, and classes
5 on mental health issues, including signs and symp-
6 toms of post-traumatic stress disorder; and

7 “(B) individual counseling and mental health
8 services, if requested, for a period not to exceed
9 three years beginning on the date on which family
10 member first seeks such services.

11 “(c) PILOT PROGRAM TO ASSIST RETURNING VET-
12 ERANS AT RISK OF NOT SEEKING MENTAL HEALTH
13 SERVICES.—(1) The Secretary shall establish and carry
14 out a pilot program to provide confidential readjustment
15 counseling and mental health services to veterans de-
16 scribed in section 1710(e)(1)(D) of this title at facilities
17 other than Department facilities.

18 “(2)(A) The Secretary shall issue to an eligible vet-
19 eran a non-currency form of payment medium that may
20 be used to provide for full payment for up to three visits
21 to any mental health provider on the list established under
22 subparagraph (B). The veteran seeking such services, in
23 consultation with a provider on such list, shall choose the
24 location and time of such visits.

1 “(B) The Secretary shall compile and maintain a list
2 of mental health care providers who have entered into an
3 agreement with the Secretary to accept the non-currency
4 form of payment medium issued under subparagraph (A)
5 as payment in full for up to three visits to the provider
6 for mental health counseling.

7 “(3) The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program
8 in at least four Veterans Integrated Service Networks, and
9 may expand the program to include additional Veterans
10 Integrated Service Networks, as the Secretary determines
11 is appropriate.

12 “(4) The authority of the Secretary to carry out a
13 pilot program under this subsection shall terminate on the
14 date that is five years after the date of enactment of this
15 section.

16 “(5) Not later than 90 days after the last day of any
17 fiscal year during which the Secretary carries out the pilot
18 program under this section, the Secretary shall submit to
19 the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and
20 House of Representatives a report on the pilot program
21 for that fiscal year. Each such report shall include each
22 of the following:

23 “(A) A description of the number of units of
24 the non-currency form of payment medium issued by

1 the Secretary during the fiscal year covered by the
2 report.

3 “(B) The list of providers maintained by the
4 Secretary under paragraph (2)(B).

5 “(C) The amount expended to carry out the
6 pilot program during that fiscal year.

7 “(D) Any recommendations of the Secretary to
8 improve the pilot program.

9 “(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year
10 after the date of the enactment of this section, and annu-
11 ally thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Commit-
12 tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
13 resentatives a report on the operation of the programs
14 under this section during the preceding year, including in-
15 formation on the number of veterans receiving services,
16 the types of services, and the cost of providing such serv-
17 ices as part of the program.”.

18 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
19 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
20 after the item relating to section 1712B the following new
21 item:

“1712C. Provision of readjustment counseling and mental health services for
veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi
Freedom.”.

22 (c) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION REQUIRED.—Not
23 later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
24 Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Vet-

1 erans' Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives
2 a report containing the plan of the Secretary for imple-
3 menting section 1712C of title 38, United States Code,
4 as added by subsection (a).

5 **TITLE II—MATTERS RELATING**
6 **TO HOMELESSNESS**

7 **SEC. 201. STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR COORDINATION**
8 **OF HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAMS.**

9 Section 2003 of title 38, United States Code, is
10 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
11 section:

12 “(c) VHA STAFFING AT VISN LEVEL.—The Sec-
13 retary shall ensure that at least one full-time employee of
14 the Veterans Health Administration is assigned to oversee
15 and coordinate homeless veterans programs at the office
16 of each of the regional health delivery networks (referred
17 to as Veterans Integrated Service Networks) of that Ad-
18 ministration.”.

19 **SEC. 202. AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDS TO SERVICE**
20 **CENTERS FOR PERSONNEL.**

21 Section 2011 of title 38, United States Code, is
22 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
23 section:

24 “(i) AVAILABILITY OF GRANT FUNDS FOR SERVICE
25 CENTER PERSONNEL.—A grant under this section for a

1 service center for homeless veterans may be used to pro-
2 vide funding for staff, as necessary, in order for the center
3 to meet the service availability requirements of subsection
4 (g)(1).”.

5 **SEC. 203. IMPROVEMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR PROVIDING**
6 **SERVICES TO HOMELESS VETERANS.**

7 (a) IMPROVEMENT OF PAYMENTS.—Section 2012 of
8 title 38, United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) by striking “per diem” and wherever it ap-
10 pears;

11 (2) in subsection (a)(2)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

13 (i) by striking “daily cost of care”
14 and inserting “annual cost of furnishing
15 services”; and

16 (ii) by striking the second sentence;

17 (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and in-
18 serting the following new subparagraph (B):

19 “(B) The Secretary shall annually increase the rate
20 of payment under subparagraph (A) to reflect anticipated
21 changes in the cost of furnishing services and to take into
22 account the cost of providing services in a particular geo-
23 graphic area. The Secretary may set a maximum amount
24 payable to a grant recipient under this section.”;

1 (C) in subparagraph (C), by striking
2 “other sources of income” and all that follows
3 through the period at the end and inserting
4 “the cost of services provided to the grant re-
5 cipient as the Secretary may require to assist
6 the Secretary in making the determination
7 under subparagraph (A)”;

8 (D) by striking subparagraph (D) and in-
9 serting the following new subparagraph (D):

10 “(D) In making the determination under subpara-
11 graph (A), the Secretary may consider the availability of
12 other sources of income, including payments to the grant
13 recipient or eligible entity for furnishing services to home-
14 less veterans under programs other than under this sub-
15 chapter, payments or grants from other departments or
16 agencies of the United States, from departments or agen-
17 cies of State or local governments, or from private entities
18 or organizations.”; and

19 (E) by striking paragraph (3) and insert-
20 ing the following new paragraph (3):

21 “(3) Payments under this subsection to a grant re-
22 cipient or eligible entity may be used to match, or in com-
23 bination with, other payments or grants for which the re-
24 cipient or entity is eligible.”; and

25 (3) in subsection (c)—

1 (A) by striking paragraph (2); and

2 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
3 paragraph (2).

4 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

5 (1) SECTION HEADING.—The section heading
6 for such section is amended to read as follows:

7 **“§ 2012. Payments for furnishing services to homeless**
8 **veterans”;**

9 (2) SUBSECTION HEADING.—The heading for
10 subsection (a) of such section is amended by striking
11 “PER DIEM”.

12 (3) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
13 at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is
14 amended by striking the item relating to section
15 2012 and inserting the following new item:

“2012. Payments for furnishing services to homeless veterans.”.

16 **SEC. 204. EMERGENCY GRANTS FOR REPLACEMENT OR RE-**
17 **PAIR OF HOMELESS VETERAN FACILITIES.**

18 (a) EMERGENCY GRANT AUTHORITY.—Subchapter II
19 of chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code, is amend-
20 ed—

21 (1) by redesignating section 2013 as section
22 2014; and

23 (2) by inserting after section 2012 the following
24 new section 2013:

1 **“§ 2013. Emergency grants for repair or replacement**
2 **of homeless veteran facilities**

3 “(a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may make an
4 emergency grant to an eligible entity that provides care
5 for homeless veterans for the purpose of repairing or re-
6 placing facilities used to provide such care, if such facili-
7 ties are damaged or destroyed by a disaster.

8 “(b) **ESTABLISHMENT OF CRITERIA AND REQUIRE-**
9 **MENTS.**—The Secretary shall establish criteria and re-
10 quirements for grants under this section and shall publish
11 such criteria and requirements in the Federal Register.

12 “(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purposes of this section:

13 “(1) The term ‘eligible entity’ has the meaning
14 given that term in section 2011(d) of this title.

15 “(2) The term ‘disaster’ means—

16 “(A) a major disaster or emergency de-
17 clared by the President under the Robert T.
18 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
19 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.); or

20 “(B) a disaster or emergency in which the
21 National Disaster Medical System established
22 pursuant to section 2811(b) of the Public
23 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b)) is
24 activated by the Secretary of Health and
25 Human Services under paragraph (3)(A) of

1 that section or as otherwise authorized by
2 law.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
4 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking
5 the item relating to section 2013 and inserting after the
6 item relating to section 2012 the following new items:

“2013. Emergency grants for repair or replacement of homeless veteran facilities.

“2014. Authorization of appropriations.”.

7 **SEC. 205. EXPANSION AND EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR**
8 **PROGRAM OF REFERRAL AND COUNSELING**
9 **SERVICES FOR AT-RISK VETERANS**
10 **TRANSITIONING FROM CERTAIN INSTITU-**
11 **TIONS.**

12 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—Subsection (a) of section
13 2023 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by strik-
14 ing “a demonstration program for the purpose of deter-
15 mining the costs and benefits of providing” and inserting
16 “a program of”.

17 (b) SCOPE OF PROGRAM.—Subsection (b) of such
18 section is amended—

19 (1) by striking “DEMONSTRATION” in the sub-
20 section heading;

21 (2) by striking “demonstration”; and

22 (3) by striking “in at least six locations” and
23 inserting “in at least 12 locations”.

1 (c) EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (d) of
2 such section is amended by striking “shall cease” and all
3 that follows and inserting “shall cease on September 30,
4 2011.”.

5 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

6 (1) SCOPE OF PROGRAM.—Subsection (c)(1) of
7 such section is amended by striking “demonstra-
8 tion”.

9 (2) SECTION HEADING.—The heading of such
10 section is amended to read as follows:

11 **“§ 2023. Referral and counseling services: veterans at**
12 **risk of homelessness who are**
13 **transitioning from certain institutions”.**

14 (3) SECTION HEADING.—Section 2022(f)(2)(C)
15 of such title is amended by striking “demonstra-
16 tion”.

17 (e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
18 at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended
19 by striking the item relating to section 2023 and inserting
20 the following:

“2023. Referral and counseling services: veterans at risk of homelessness who
are transitioning from certain institutions.”.

1 **SEC. 206. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON PREVENTING**
2 **VETERANS AT-RISK OF HOMELESSNESS**
3 **FROM BECOMING HOMELESS.**

4 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—Subchapter III of
5 chapter 20 of title 38, United States Code, is amended
6 by adding at the end the following new item:

7 **“§ 2024. Demonstration program on preventing vet-**
8 **erans at-risk of homelessness from be-**
9 **coming homeless**

10 “(a) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—Subject to the
11 availability of appropriations for such purpose, the Sec-
12 retary shall carry out a demonstration program for the
13 purpose of—

14 “(1) identifying members of the Armed Forces
15 on active duty who are at risk of becoming homeless
16 after they are discharged or released from active
17 duty; and

18 “(2) providing referral, counseling, and sup-
19 portive services, as appropriate, to help prevent such
20 members, upon becoming veterans, from becoming
21 homeless.

22 “(b) PROGRAM LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall
23 carry out the demonstration program under subsection (a)
24 in at least three geographic locations.

25 “(c) IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA.—In developing and
26 implementing the criteria to identify members of the

1 Armed Forces, who upon becoming veterans, are at-risk
2 of becoming homeless, the Secretary shall consult with the
3 Secretary of Defense and such other officials and experts
4 as the Secretary considers appropriate.

5 “(d) CONTRACTS.—The Secretary may enter into
6 contracts with entities or organizations that meet such re-
7 quirements as the Secretary may establish to provide the
8 referral, counseling, and supportive services required
9 under the demonstration program under subsection (a).

10 “(e) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary
11 under subsection (a) shall terminate on September 30,
12 2011.

13 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years
15 2008 through 2011 \$2,000,000 to carry out this section.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
17 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
18 after the item relating to section 2023 the following new
19 item:

“2024. Demonstration program on preventing veterans at-risk of homelessness
from becoming homeless.”.

1 **SEC. 207. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR DOMICILIARY**
2 **SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS AND**
3 **ENHANCEMENT OF CAPACITY OF DOMI-**
4 **CILIARY CARE PROGRAMS FOR FEMALE VET-**
5 **ERANS.**

6 Subsection (b) of section 2043 of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 “(b) ENHANCEMENT OF CAPACITY OF DOMICILIARY
9 CARE PROGRAMS FOR FEMALE VETERANS.—The Sec-
10 retary shall take appropriate actions to ensure that the
11 domiciliary care programs of the Department are ade-
12 quate, with respect to capacity and safety, to meet the
13 needs of veterans who are women.”.

14 **SEC. 208. PILOT PROGRAM FOR PROVISION OF PERMANENT**
15 **HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

16 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Subchapter V of Chapter 20
17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at
18 the end the following new section:

19 **“§ 2044. Pilot program for provision of permanent**
20 **housing for homeless veterans**

21 “(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—To improve access to afford-
22 able permanent housing for homeless veterans, the Sec-
23 retary shall carry out a pilot program to—

24 “(1) make grants to public or nonprofit private
25 entities for the purpose of acquiring and operating

1 single-room occupancy housing solely for the benefit
2 of homeless veterans; and

3 “(2) provide rental assistance on behalf of
4 homeless veterans to public or nonprofit private enti-
5 ties with established single-room occupancy facilities.

6 “(b) TERMINATION.—The authority of the Secretary
7 to carry out a pilot program under this section shall termi-
8 nate on the date that is five years after the date of enact-
9 ment of this section.

10 “(c) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than
11 90 days after the end of the one-year period beginning
12 on the date of the enactment of this section, and annually
13 thereafter until the termination of the Secretary’s author-
14 ity under subsection (b), the Secretary shall submit to the
15 committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House
16 of Representatives a report on the pilot program during
17 that period. Each such report shall include—

18 “(1) a description of the grants made during
19 the period covered by the report including the loca-
20 tion of each facility receiving a grant;

21 “(2) a list of the public and nonprofit private
22 entities seeking grants under the pilot program and
23 the amount requested by each such entity;

24 “(3) the number of veterans receiving assist-
25 ance under the pilot program during the period cov-

1 ered by the report and the total number of veterans
 2 who have received such assistance since the incep-
 3 tion of the pilot program; and

4 “(4) the recommendations of the Secretary con-
 5 cerning improvements to the pilot program and a de-
 6 scription of the Secretary’s findings as to the effec-
 7 tiveness of the pilot program in reducing homeless-
 8 ness among veterans.

9 “(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There
 10 is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2008 and
 11 each subsequent fiscal year \$10,000,000 to carry out this
 12 section.”.

13 (b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections
 14 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
 15 after the item relating to section 2043 the following new
 16 item:

 “2044. Pilot program for provision of permanent housing for homeless vet-
 erans.”.

17 **SEC. 209. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERV-**
 18 **ICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMI-**
 19 **LIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.**

20 (a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to fa-
 21 cilitate the provision of supportive services for very low-
 22 income veteran families in permanent housing.

23 (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 20
2 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by sec-
3 tion 208, is further amended by adding at the end
4 the following new section:

5 **“§ 2045. Financial assistance for supportive services**
6 **for very low-income veteran families re-**
7 **siding in permanent housing**

8 “(a) DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

9 (1) The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to eli-
10 gible entities approved under this section to provide and
11 coordinate the provision of the supportive services for very
12 low-income veteran families residing in permanent hous-
13 ing.

14 “(2)(A) Financial assistance under this section shall
15 consist of payments for each such family for which an ap-
16 proved eligible entity provides or coordinates the provision
17 of supportive services.

18 “(B) The Secretary shall establish a formula for de-
19 termining the rate of payments provided to a very low-
20 income veteran family receiving supportive services under
21 this section. The rate shall be adjusted not less than once
22 annually to reflect changes in the cost of living. In calcu-
23 lating the payment formula under this subparagraph, the
24 Secretary may consider geographic cost of living variances,
25 family size, and the cost of services provided.

1 “(3) In providing financial assistance under para-
2 graph (1), the Secretary shall give preference to an entity
3 that provides or coordinates the provision of supportive
4 services for very low-income veteran families who are
5 transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing.

6 “(4) The Secretary shall ensure that, to the extent
7 practicable, financial assistance under this subsection is
8 equitably distributed across geographic regions, including
9 rural communities and tribal lands.

10 “(5) Each entity receiving financial assistance under
11 this section to provide supportive services to a very low-
12 income veteran family shall notify the family that such
13 services are being paid for, in whole or in part, by the
14 Department.

15 “(6) The Secretary may require an entity receiving
16 financial assistance under this section to submit a report
17 to the Secretary describing the supportive services pro-
18 vided with such financial assistance.

19 “(b) APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—
20 (1) An eligible entity seeking financial assistance under
21 subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary an application
22 in such form, in such manner, and containing such com-
23 mitments and information as the Secretary determines to
24 be necessary.

1 “(2) An application submitted under paragraph (1)
2 shall contain—

3 “(A) a description of the supportive services
4 proposed to be provided by the eligible entity;

5 “(B) a description of the types of very low-in-
6 come veteran families proposed to be provided such
7 services;

8 “(C) an estimate of the number of very low-in-
9 come veteran families proposed to be provided such
10 services;

11 “(D) evidence of the experience of the eligible
12 entity in providing supportive services to very low-in-
13 come veteran families; and

14 “(E) a description of the managerial capacity of
15 the eligible entity to—

16 “(i) coordinate the provision of supportive
17 services with the provision of permanent hous-
18 ing, by the eligible entity or by other organiza-
19 tions;

20 “(ii) continuously assess the needs of very
21 low-income veteran families for supportive serv-
22 ices;

23 “(iii) coordinate the provision of supportive
24 services with the services of the Department;

1 “(iv) tailor supportive services to the needs
2 of very low-income veteran families; and

3 “(v) continuously seek new sources of as-
4 sistance to ensure the long-term provision of
5 supportive services to very low-income veteran
6 families.

7 “(3) The Secretary shall establish criteria for the se-
8 lection of eligible entities to receive financial assistance
9 under this section.

10 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary
11 shall provide training and technical assistance to eligible
12 entities that receive financial assistance under this section
13 with respect to the planning, development, and provision
14 of supportive services to very low-income veteran families
15 occupying permanent housing.

16 “(2) The Secretary may provide the training de-
17 scribed in paragraph (1) directly or through grants or con-
18 tracts with appropriate public or nonprofit private entities.

19 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 is authorized to be appropriated, for each fiscal year,
21 \$25,000,000, to carry out this section, of which not more
22 than \$750,000 for each fiscal year may be used to provide
23 technical assistance under subsection (c).

24 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

1 “(1) The term ‘very low-income veteran family’
2 means a veteran family whose income does not ex-
3 ceed 50 percent of the median income for the area,
4 as determined by the Secretary in accordance with
5 this paragraph, except that—

6 “(A) the Secretary shall make appropriate
7 adjustments to the income requirement under
8 subparagraph (A) based on family size; and

9 “(B) the Secretary may establish an in-
10 come ceiling higher or lower than 50 percent of
11 the median income for an area if the Secretary
12 determines that such variations are necessary
13 because the area has unusually high or low con-
14 struction costs, fair market rents (as deter-
15 mined under section 8 of the United States
16 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f)), or
17 family incomes.

18 “(2) The term ‘veteran family’ includes a vet-
19 eran who is a single person and a family in which
20 the head of household or the spouse of the head of
21 household is a veteran.

22 “(3) The term ‘consumer cooperative’ has the
23 meaning given such term in section 202 of the
24 Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q).

25 “(4) The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

1 “(A) a private nonprofit organization; or

2 “(B) a consumer cooperative.

3 “(5) The term ‘homeless’ has the meaning
4 given the term in section 103 of the McKinney-
5 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302)).

6 “(6) The term ‘permanent housing’ means com-
7 munity-based housing without a designated length of
8 stay.

9 “(7) The term ‘private nonprofit organization’
10 means—

11 “(A) any incorporated private institution
12 or foundation—

13 “(i) no part of the net earnings of
14 which inures to the benefit of any member,
15 founder, contributor, or individual;

16 “(ii) which has a governing board that
17 is responsible for the operation of the sup-
18 portive services provided under this sec-
19 tion; and

20 “(iii) which is approved by the Sec-
21 retary as to financial responsibility;

22 “(B) a for-profit limited partnership, the
23 sole general partner of which is an organization
24 meeting the requirements of clauses (i), (ii),
25 and (iii) of subparagraph (A);

1 “(C) a corporation wholly owned and con-
2 trolled by an organization meeting the require-
3 ments of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subpara-
4 graph (A); and

5 “(D) a tribally designated housing entity
6 (as defined in section 4 of the Native American
7 Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act
8 of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)).

9 “(8) The term ‘supportive services’ means the
10 following:

11 “(A) Services provided by an eligible entity
12 or subcontractors that address the needs of very
13 low-income veteran families occupying perma-
14 nent housing, including—

15 “(i) outreach services;

16 “(ii) health care services, including di-
17 agnosis, treatment, and counseling for
18 mental health and substance abuse dis-
19 orders and for post-traumatic stress dis-
20 order, if such services are not readily avail-
21 able through the Department of Veterans
22 Affairs medical center serving the geo-
23 graphic area in which the veteran family is
24 housed;

- 1 “(iii) habilitation and rehabilitation
2 services;
- 3 “(iv) case management services;
- 4 “(v) daily living services;
- 5 “(vi) personal financial planning;
- 6 “(vii) transportation services;
- 7 “(viii) vocational counseling;
- 8 “(ix) employment and training;
- 9 “(x) educational services;
- 10 “(xi) assistance in obtaining veterans
11 benefits and other public benefits, includ-
12 ing health care provided by the Depart-
13 ment;
- 14 “(xii) assistance in obtaining income
15 support;
- 16 “(xiii) assistance in obtaining health
17 insurance;
- 18 “(xiv) fiduciary and representative
19 payee services;
- 20 “(xv) legal services to assist the vet-
21 eran family with reconsiderations or ap-
22 peals of veterans and public benefit claim
23 denials and to resolve outstanding war-
24 rants that interfere with the family’s abil-

1 ity to obtain or retain housing or sup-
2 portive services;

3 “(xvi) child care;

4 “(xvii) housing counseling;

5 “(xviii) other services necessary for
6 maintaining independent living; and

7 “(xix) coordination of services de-
8 scribed in this paragraph.

9 “(B) Services provided by an eligible entity
10 or subcontractors, including services described
11 in clauses (i) through (xix) of subparagraph
12 (A), that are delivered to very low-income vet-
13 eran families who are homeless and who are
14 scheduled to become residents of permanent
15 housing within 90 days of the date on which the
16 service is provided pending the location or de-
17 velopment of housing suitable for permanent
18 housing.

19 “(C) Services provided by an eligible entity
20 or subcontractors, including services described
21 in clauses (i) through (xix) of subparagraph
22 (A), for very low-income veteran families who
23 have voluntarily chosen to seek other housing
24 after a period of tenancy in permanent housing,
25 that are provided, for a period of 90 days be-

1 ginning on the date on which such a family
 2 exits permanent housing or until such a family
 3 commences receipt of other housing services
 4 adequate to meet the needs of the family, but
 5 only to the extent that services under this para-
 6 graph are designed to support such a family in
 7 the choice to transition into housing that is re-
 8 sponsive to the individual needs and preferences
 9 of the family.”.

10 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 11 tions at the beginning of such chapter, as amended
 12 by section 208, is further amended by inserting after
 13 the item relating to section 2044 the following new
 14 item:

“2045. Financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran
 families in permanent housing.”.

15 **SEC. 210. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR DENTAL CARE.**

16 Section 2062(b) of title 38, United States Code, is
 17 amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (2), by striking “, for a period
 19 of 60 consecutive days,”; and

20 (2) by striking paragraph (3).

21 **TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS**

22 **SEC. 301. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**

23 Title 38, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) in each of sections 1708(d), 7314(f),
2 7320(j)(2), 7325(i)(2), and 7328(i)(2), by striking
3 “medical care account” and inserting “medical serv-
4 ices account”;

5 (2) in section 1710A—

6 (A) by striking subsection (g);

7 (B) by redesignating subsections (d)
8 through (i) as subsections (e) through (f), re-
9 spectively; and

10 (C) in subsection (f), as so redesignated,
11 by striking “(including a Resource Center des-
12 igned under subsection (h)(3)(A) of this sec-
13 tion)”;

14 (3) in section 2065(b)(3), by striking “(3)”;

15 (4) in the table of sections at the beginning of
16 chapter 36, by striking the item relating to section
17 3684A and inserting the following new item:

“3684A. Procedures relating to computer matching program.”;

18 (5) in section 3684(a)(1), by striking “34,”
19 and inserting “34,”;

20 (6) in section 4110(c)(1), by striking “15” and
21 inserting “16”;

22 (7) in the table of sections at the beginning of
23 chapter 51, by striking the item relating to section
24 5121 and inserting the following new item:

“5121. Payment of certain accrued benefits upon death of a beneficiary.”;

1 (8) in section 7458(b)(2), by striking “pro
2 rated” and inserting “pro-rated”; and

3 (9) in section 8117(a)(1), by striking “such
4 such” and inserting “such”.

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