

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6792

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the position of Director of Physical Therapy Service within the Veterans Health Administration and to establish a fellowship program for physical therapists in the areas of geriatrics, amputee rehabilitation, polytrauma care, and rehabilitation research.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 1, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the position of Director of Physical Therapy Service within the Veterans Health Administration and to establish a fellowship program for physical therapists in the areas of geriatrics, amputee rehabilitation, polytrauma care, and rehabilitation research.

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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Physical
5 Therapy Services Improvement Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

2 The Congress finds that chronic conditions of the
3 aging veteran population and the complex impairments as-
4 sociated with returning veterans from Operation Enduring
5 Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Free-
6 dom (OIF) in Iraq have increased the need to recruit and
7 retain physical therapists in the Veterans Health Adminis-
8 tration.

9 **SEC. 3. CREATION OF DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**
10 **SERVICE.**

11 Paragraph (6) of section 7306(a) of title 38, United
12 States Code, is amended by inserting “a Director of Phys-
13 ical Therapy Service,” after “a Director of Podiatric Serv-
14 ice,”.

15 **SEC. 4. QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF PHYSICAL**
16 **THERAPISTS.**

17 Section 7402(b) of title 38, United States Code, is
18 amended—

19 (1) by redesignating the paragraph (11) relat-
20 ing to other health-care positions as paragraph (14);
21 and

22 (2) by redesignating paragraph (10), the other
23 paragraph (11), and paragraph (12) as paragraphs
24 (11), (12), and (13), respectively, and by inserting
25 after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

1 “(10) PHYSICAL THERAPIST.—To be eligible to
 2 be appointed to a physical therapist position, a per-
 3 son must—

4 “(A)(i) hold the degree of doctor of phys-
 5 ical therapy or other post baccalaureate degree
 6 in physical therapy from an accredited college
 7 or university approved by the Secretary; or

8 “(ii) have completed a degree in physical
 9 therapy from an accredited college or university
 10 approved by the Secretary and be employed on
 11 the date of the enactment of this paragraph by
 12 the Administration as a physical therapist; and

13 “(B) be licensed to practice physical ther-
 14 apy in a State.”.

15 **SEC. 5. CREATION OF A FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR PHYS-**
 16 **ICAL THERAPISTS IN THE AREAS OF GERI-**
 17 **ATRICS, AMPUTEE REHABILITATION, POLY-**
 18 **TRAUMA, AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 76 of title 38, United
 20 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 21 lowing new subchapter:

1 **“Subchapter VIII—Fellowships for Physical**
 2 **Therapists in Geriatrics, Amputee Reha-**
 3 **bilitation, Polytrauma Care, and Reha-**
 4 **bilitation Research**

5 **“SEC. 7691. AUTHORITY FOR PROGRAM.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established a
 7 program to be known as the Department of Veterans Af-
 8 fairs Geriatric, Amputee, Polytrauma, and Rehabilitation
 9 Research Fellowships Program.

10 “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of such Program is to
 11 assist in the recruitment of qualified physical therapists
 12 for positions in the Veterans Health Administration spe-
 13 cializing in the areas of geriatrics, amputee rehabilitation,
 14 polytrauma care, and rehabilitation research.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 16 at the beginning of such chapter 76 is amended by adding
 17 at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VIII—FELLOWSHIPS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS IN GERIATRICS,
 AMPUTEE REHABILITATION, POLYTRAUMA CARE, AND REHABILITATION RE-
 SEARCH

“Sec. 7691. Authority for program.”.

