

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

September 24, 2008.

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2162) entitled “An Act to improve the treatment and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders, and for other purposes”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENT:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

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

2 (a) *SHORT TITLE.*—*This Act may be cited as the “Vet-*
3 *erans’ Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of*
4 *2008”.*

5 (b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS.*—*The table of contents for*
6 *this Act is as follows:*

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Sec. 101. Tribute to Justin Bailey.

Sec. 102. Findings on substance use disorders and mental health.

Sec. 103. Expansion of substance use disorder treatment services provided by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 104. Care for veterans with mental health and substance use disorders.

Sec. 105. Pilot program for Internet-based substance use disorder treatment for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sec. 106. Report on residential mental health care facilities of the Veterans Health Administration.

Sec. 107. Pilot program on peer outreach and support for veterans and use of community mental health centers and Indian Health Service facilities.

TITLE II—MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH

- Sec. 201. Research program on comorbid post-traumatic stress disorder and substance use disorders.*
- Sec. 202. Extension of authorization for Special Committee on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.*

TITLE III—ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES OF VETERANS

- Sec. 301. Clarification of authority of Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide mental health services to families of veterans.*
- Sec. 302. Pilot program on provision of readjustment and transition assistance to veterans and their families in cooperation with Vet Centers.*

TITLE IV—HEALTH CARE MATTERS

- Sec. 401. Veterans beneficiary travel program.*
- Sec. 402. Mandatory reimbursement of veterans receiving emergency treatment in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities until transfer to Department facilities.*
- Sec. 403. Pilot program of enhanced contract care authority for health care needs of veterans in highly rural areas.*
- Sec. 404. Epilepsy centers of excellence.*
- Sec. 405. Establishment of qualifications for peer specialist appointees.*
- Sec. 406. Establishment of consolidated patient accounting centers.*
- Sec. 407. Repeal of limitation on authority to conduct widespread HIV testing program.*
- Sec. 408. Provision of comprehensive health care by Secretary of Veterans Affairs to children of Vietnam veterans born with Spina Bifida.*
- Sec. 409. Exemption from copayment requirement for veterans receiving hospice care.*

TITLE V—PAIN CARE

- Sec. 501. Comprehensive policy on pain management.*

TITLE VI—HOMELESS VETERANS MATTERS

- Sec. 601. Increased authorization of appropriations for comprehensive service programs.*
- Sec. 602. Expansion and extension of authority for program of referral and counseling services for at-risk veterans transitioning from certain institutions.*
- Sec. 603. Permanent authority for domiciliary services for homeless veterans and enhancement of capacity of domiciliary care programs for female veterans.*
- Sec. 604. Financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.*

TITLE VII—AUTHORIZATION OF MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS AND MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES

- Sec. 701. Authorization for fiscal year 2009 major medical facility projects.*
- Sec. 702. Modification of authorization amounts for certain major medical facility construction projects previously authorized.*
- Sec. 703. Authorization of fiscal year 2009 major medical facility leases.*
- Sec. 704. Authorization of appropriations.*

- Sec. 705. Increase in threshold for major medical facility leases requiring Congressional approval.*
- Sec. 706. Conveyance of certain non-Federal land by City of Aurora, Colorado, to Secretary of Veterans Affairs for construction of veterans medical facility.*
- Sec. 707. Report on facilities administration.*
- Sec. 708. Annual report on outpatient clinics.*
- Sec. 709. Name of Department of Veterans Affairs spinal cord injury center, Tampa, Florida.*

TITLE VIII—EXTENSION OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES

- Sec. 801. Repeal of sunset on inclusion of noninstitutional extended care services in definition of medical services.*
- Sec. 802. Extension of recovery audit authority.*
- Sec. 803. Permanent authority for provision of hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care to veterans who participated in certain chemical and biological testing conducted by the Department of Defense.*
- Sec. 804. Extension of expiring collections authorities.*
- Sec. 805. Extension of nursing home care.*
- Sec. 806. Permanent authority to establish research corporations.*
- Sec. 807. Extension of requirement to submit annual report on the Committee on Care of Severely Chronically Mentally Ill Veterans.*
- Sec. 808. Permanent requirement for biannual report on Women's Advisory Committee.*
- Sec. 809. Extension of pilot program on improvement of caregiver assistance services.*

TITLE IX—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 901. Technical amendments.*

1 SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.

- 2** *Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in*
- 3** *this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of*
- 4** *an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision,*
- 5** *the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or*
- 6** *other provision of title 38, United States Code.*

1 ***TITLE I—SUBSTANCE USE DIS-***
 2 ***ORDERS AND MENTAL***
 3 ***HEALTH CARE***

4 ***SEC. 101. TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN BAILEY.***

5 *This title is enacted in tribute to Justin Bailey, who,*
 6 *after returning to the United States from service as a mem-*
 7 *ber of the Armed Forces in Operation Iraqi Freedom, died*
 8 *in a domiciliary facility of the Department of Veterans Af-*
 9 *fairs while receiving care for post-traumatic stress disorder*
 10 *and a substance use disorder.*

11 ***SEC. 102. FINDINGS ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS AND***
 12 ***MENTAL HEALTH.***

13 *Congress makes the following findings:*

14 *(1) More than 1,500,000 members of the Armed*
 15 *Forces have been deployed in Operation Iraqi Free-*
 16 *dom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The 2005 De-*
 17 *partment of Defense Survey of Health Related Behav-*
 18 *iors Among Active Duty Personnel reports that 23*
 19 *percent of members of the Armed Forces on active*
 20 *duty acknowledge a significant problem with alcohol*
 21 *use disorder, with similar rates of acknowledged prob-*
 22 *lems with alcohol use disorder among members of the*
 23 *National Guard.*

24 *(2) The effects of substance use disorder are wide*
 25 *ranging, including significantly increased risk of sui-*

1 *cide, exacerbation of mental and physical health dis-*
2 *orders, breakdown of family support, and increased*
3 *risk of unemployment and homelessness.*

4 *(3) While veterans suffering from mental health*
5 *conditions, chronic physical illness, and polytrauma*
6 *may be at increased risk for development of a sub-*
7 *stance use disorder, treatment for these veterans is*
8 *complicated by the need to address adequately the*
9 *physical and mental symptoms associated with these*
10 *conditions through appropriate medical intervention.*

11 *(4) While the Veterans Health Administration*
12 *has dramatically increased health services for vet-*
13 *erans from 1996 through 2006, the number of veterans*
14 *receiving specialized substance use disorder treatment*
15 *services decreased 18 percent during that time. No*
16 *comparable decrease in the national rate of substance*
17 *use disorder has been observed during that time.*

18 *(5) While some facilities of the Veterans Health*
19 *Administration provide exemplary substance use dis-*
20 *order treatment services, the availability of such*
21 *treatment services throughout the health care system*
22 *of the Veterans Health Administration is inconsistent.*

23 *(6) According to a 2006 report by the Govern-*
24 *ment Accountability Office, the Department of Vet-*
25 *erans Affairs significantly reduced its substance use*

1 *disorder treatment and rehabilitation services between*
 2 *1996 and 2006, and the Fiscal Year 2007 National*
 3 *Mental Health Program Monitoring System report*
 4 *shows that little progress has been made in restoring*
 5 *these services to their pre-1996 levels.*

6 **SEC. 103. EXPANSION OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**
 7 **TREATMENT SERVICES PROVIDED BY DE-**
 8 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
 10 *shall ensure the provision of such services and treatment*
 11 *to each veteran enrolled in the health care system of the*
 12 *Department of Veterans Affairs who is in need of services*
 13 *and treatments for a substance use disorder as follows:*

14 *(1) Screening for substance use disorder in all*
 15 *settings, including primary care settings.*

16 *(2) Short term motivational counseling services.*

17 *(3) Marital and family counseling.*

18 *(4) Intensive outpatient or residential care serv-*
 19 *ices.*

20 *(5) Relapse prevention services.*

21 *(6) Ongoing aftercare and outpatient counseling*
 22 *services.*

23 *(7) Opiate substitution therapy services.*

24 *(8) Pharmacological treatments aimed at reduc-*
 25 *ing craving for drugs and alcohol.*

1 (9) *Detoxification and stabilization services.*

2 (10) *Coordination with groups providing peer to*
3 *peer counseling.*

4 (11) *Such other services as the Secretary con-*
5 *siders appropriate.*

6 (b) *PROVISION OF SERVICES.—*

7 (1) *ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR PROVISION*
8 *OF SERVICES.—The Secretary shall ensure that*
9 *amounts made available for care, treatment, and serv-*
10 *ices provided under this section are allocated in such*
11 *a manner that a full continuum of care, treatment,*
12 *and services described in subsection (a) is available to*
13 *veterans seeking such care, treatment, or services,*
14 *without regard to the location of the residence of any*
15 *such veterans.*

16 (2) *MANNER OF PROVISION.—The services and*
17 *treatment described in subsection (a) may be provided*
18 *to a veteran described in such subsection—*

19 (A) *at Department of Veterans Affairs med-*
20 *ical centers or clinics;*

21 (B) *by referral to other facilities of the De-*
22 *partment that are accessible to such veteran; or*

23 (C) *by contract or fee-for-service payments*
24 *with community-based organizations for the pro-*
25 *vision of such services and treatments.*

1 (c) *ALTERNATIVES IN CASE OF SERVICES DENIED*
 2 *DUE TO CLINICAL NECESSITY.*—*If the Secretary denies the*
 3 *provision to a veteran of services or treatment for a sub-*
 4 *stance use disorder due to clinical necessity, the Secretary*
 5 *shall provide the veteran such other services or treatment*
 6 *as are medically appropriate.*

7 **SEC. 104. CARE FOR VETERANS WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND**
 8 **SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS.**

9 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*If the Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
 10 *provides a veteran inpatient or outpatient care for a sub-*
 11 *stance use disorder and a comorbid mental health disorder,*
 12 *the Secretary shall ensure that treatment for such disorders*
 13 *is provided concurrently—*

14 (1) *through a service provided by a clinician or*
 15 *health professional who has training and expertise in*
 16 *treatment of substance use disorders and mental*
 17 *health disorders;*

18 (2) *by separate substance use disorder and men-*
 19 *tal health disorder treatment services when there is*
 20 *appropriate coordination, collaboration, and care*
 21 *management between such treatment services; or*

22 (3) *by a team of clinicians with appropriate ex-*
 23 *pertise.*

24 (b) *TEAM OF CLINICIANS WITH APPROPRIATE EXPER-*
 25 *TISE DEFINED.*—*In this section, the term “team of clini-*

1 cians with appropriate expertise” means a team consisting
 2 of the following:

3 (1) Clinicians and health professionals with ex-
 4 pertise in treatment of substance use disorders and
 5 mental health disorders who act in coordination and
 6 collaboration with each other.

7 (2) Such other professionals as the Secretary
 8 considers appropriate for the provision of treatment
 9 to veterans for substance use and mental health dis-
 10 orders.

11 **SEC. 105. PILOT PROGRAM FOR INTERNET-BASED SUB-**
 12 **STANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT FOR**
 13 **VETERANS OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM**
 14 **AND OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.**

15 (a) *FINDINGS.*—Congress makes the following findings:

16 (1) Stigma associated with seeking treatment for
 17 mental health disorders has been demonstrated to pre-
 18 vent some veterans from seeking such treatment at a
 19 medical facility operated by the Department of De-
 20 fense or the Department of Veterans Affairs.

21 (2) There is a significant incidence among vet-
 22 erans of post-deployment mental health problems, es-
 23 pecially among members of a reserve component who
 24 return as veterans to civilian life.

1 (3) *Computer-based self-guided training has been*
2 *demonstrated to be an effective strategy for*
3 *supplementing the care of psychological conditions.*

4 (4) *Younger veterans, especially those who served*
5 *in Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi*
6 *Freedom, are comfortable with and proficient at com-*
7 *puter-based technology.*

8 (5) *Veterans living in rural areas may find ac-*
9 *cess to treatment for substance use disorder limited.*

10 (6) *Self-assessment and treatment options for*
11 *substance use disorders through an Internet website*
12 *may reduce stigma and provides additional access for*
13 *individuals seeking care and treatment for such dis-*
14 *orders.*

15 (b) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than October 1, 2009, the*
16 *Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot pro-*
17 *gram to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing*
18 *veterans who seek treatment for substance use disorders ac-*
19 *cess to a computer-based self-assessment, education, and*
20 *specified treatment program through a secure Internet*
21 *website operated by the Secretary. Participation in the pilot*
22 *program shall be available on a voluntary basis for those*
23 *veterans who have served in Operation Enduring Freedom*
24 *or Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

25 (c) *ELEMENTS OF PILOT PROGRAM.*—

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*In carrying out the pilot pro-*
2 *gram under this section, the Secretary shall ensure*
3 *that—*

4 (A) *access to the Internet website and the*
5 *programs available on the website by a veteran*
6 *(or family member) does not involuntarily gen-*
7 *erate an identifiable medical record of that ac-*
8 *cess by that veteran in any medical database*
9 *maintained by the Department of Veterans Af-*
10 *fairs;*

11 (B) *the Internet website is accessible from*
12 *remote locations, especially rural areas; and*

13 (C) *the Internet website includes a self-as-*
14 *essment tool for substance use disorders, self-*
15 *guided treatment and educational materials for*
16 *such disorders, and appropriate information and*
17 *materials for family members of veterans.*

18 (2) *CONSIDERATION OF SIMILAR PROJECTS.*—*In*
19 *designing the pilot program under this section, the*
20 *Secretary shall consider similar pilot projects of the*
21 *Department of Defense for the early diagnosis and*
22 *treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and other*
23 *mental health conditions established under section 741*
24 *of the John Warner National Defense Authorization*

1 *Act of Fiscal Year 2007 (Public Law 109–364; 120*
2 *Stat. 2304).*

3 (3) *LOCATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.*—*The Sec-*
4 *retary shall carry out the pilot program through those*
5 *medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs*
6 *that have established Centers for Excellence for Sub-*
7 *stance Abuse Treatment and Education or that have*
8 *established a Substance Abuse Program Evaluation*
9 *and Research Center.*

10 (4) *CONTRACT AUTHORITY.*—*The Secretary may*
11 *enter into contracts with qualified entities or organi-*
12 *zations to carry out the pilot program required under*
13 *this section.*

14 (d) *DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.*—*The pilot pro-*
15 *gram required by subsection (a) shall be carried out during*
16 *the two-year period beginning on the date of the commence-*
17 *ment of the pilot program.*

18 (e) *REPORT.*—*Not later than six months after the com-*
19 *pletion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to*
20 *Congress a report on the pilot program, and shall include*
21 *in that report—an assessment of the feasibility and advis-*
22 *ability of continuing or expanding the pilot program, of*
23 *any cost savings or other benefits associated with the pilot*
24 *program, and any other recommendations.*

1 (f) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There are*
 2 *authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans*
 3 *Affairs \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011*
 4 *to carry out the pilot program under this section.*

5 **SEC. 106. REPORT ON RESIDENTIAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE**
 6 **FACILITIES OF THE VETERANS HEALTH AD-**
 7 **MINISTRATION.**

8 (a) *REVIEW.*—

9 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than six months*
 10 *after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-*
 11 *retary of Veterans Affairs shall, acting through the*
 12 *Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Af-*
 13 *fairs, complete a review of all residential mental*
 14 *health care facilities, including domiciliary facilities,*
 15 *of the Veterans Health Administration.*

16 (2) *ASSESSMENT.*—*As part of the review re-*
 17 *quired by paragraph (1), the Secretary, acting*
 18 *through the Inspector General, shall assess the fol-*
 19 *lowing:*

20 (A) *The availability of care in residential*
 21 *mental health care facilities in each Veterans In-*
 22 *tegrated Service Network (VISN).*

23 (B) *The supervision and support provided*
 24 *in the residential mental health care facilities of*
 25 *the Veterans Health Administration.*

1 (C) *The ratio of staff members at each resi-*
2 *dential mental health care facility to patients at*
3 *such facility.*

4 (D) *The appropriateness of rules and proce-*
5 *dures for the prescription and administration of*
6 *medications to patients in such residential men-*
7 *tal health care facilities.*

8 (E) *The protocols at each residential mental*
9 *health care facility for handling missed appoint-*
10 *ments.*

11 (3) *RECOMMENDATIONS.—As part of the review*
12 *required by paragraph (1), the Secretary, acting*
13 *through the Inspector General, shall develop such rec-*
14 *ommendations as the Secretary considers appropriate*
15 *for improvements to residential mental health care fa-*
16 *cilities of the Veterans Health Administration and the*
17 *care provided in such facilities.*

18 (b) *FOLLOW-UP REVIEW.—Not later than two years*
19 *after the date of the completion of the review required by*
20 *subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, act-*
21 *ing through the Inspector General of the Department of Vet-*
22 *erans Affairs, complete a follow-up review of the facilities*
23 *reviewed under subsection (a) to evaluate any improve-*
24 *ments made or problems remaining since the review under*
25 *subsection (a) was completed.*

1 (c) *REPORT*.—Not later than 90 days after the comple-
 2 tion of the review required by subsection (a), the Secretary
 3 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
 4 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans'
 5 Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the find-
 6 ings of the Secretary with respect to such review.

7 **SEC. 107. PILOT PROGRAM ON PEER OUTREACH AND SUP-**
 8 **PORT FOR VETERANS AND USE OF COMMU-**
 9 **NITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTERS AND INDIAN**
 10 **HEALTH SERVICE FACILITIES.**

11 (a) *PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED*.—Commencing not
 12 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this
 13 Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot
 14 program to assess the feasibility and advisability of pro-
 15 viding to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Oper-
 16 ation Enduring Freedom, and, in particular, veterans who
 17 served in such operations as a member of the National
 18 Guard or Reserve, the following:

19 (1) *Peer outreach services.*

20 (2) *Peer support services provided by licensed*
 21 *providers of peer support services or veterans who*
 22 *have personal experience with mental illness.*

23 (3) *Readjustment counseling services described in*
 24 *section 1712A of title 38, United States Code.*

25 (4) *Other mental health services.*

1 (b) *PROVISION OF CERTAIN SERVICES.*—In providing
2 services described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection
3 (a) under the pilot program to veterans who reside in rural
4 areas and do not have adequate access through the Depart-
5 ment of Veterans Affairs to the services described in such
6 paragraphs, the Secretary shall, acting through the Office
7 of Mental Health Services and the Office of Rural Health,
8 provide such services as follows:

9 (1) *Through community mental health centers*
10 under contracts or other agreements if entered into by
11 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of
12 Health and Human Services for the provision of such
13 services for purposes of the pilot program.

14 (2) *Through the Indian Health Service, or an*
15 Indian tribe or tribal organization that has entered
16 into an agreement with the Indian Health Service
17 pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
18 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450 et seq.), if a
19 memorandum of understanding is entered into by the
20 Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of
21 Health and Human Services for purposes of the pilot
22 program.

23 (3) *Through other appropriate entities under*
24 contracts or other agreements entered into by the Sec-

1 *retary of Veterans Affairs for the provision of such*
 2 *services for purposes of the pilot program.*

3 (c) *DURATION.*—*The pilot program shall be carried*
 4 *out during the three-year period beginning on the date of*
 5 *the commencement of the pilot program.*

6 (d) *PROGRAM LOCATIONS.*—

7 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The pilot program shall be*
 8 *carried out within areas selected by the Secretary for*
 9 *the purpose of the pilot program in at least three Vet-*
 10 *erans Integrated Service Networks (VISNs).*

11 (2) *RURAL GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS.*—*The loca-*
 12 *tions selected shall be in rural geographic locations*
 13 *that, as determined by the Secretary, lack access to*
 14 *comprehensive mental health services through the De-*
 15 *partment of Veterans Affairs.*

16 (3) *QUALIFIED PROVIDERS.*—*In selecting loca-*
 17 *tions for the pilot program, the Secretary shall select*
 18 *locations in which an adequate number of licensed*
 19 *mental health care providers with credentials equiva-*
 20 *lent to those of Department mental health care pro-*
 21 *viders are available in Indian Health Service facili-*
 22 *ties, community mental health centers, and other enti-*
 23 *ties for participation in the pilot program.*

24 (e) *PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM.*—*Each community*
 25 *mental health center, facility of the Indian Health Service,*

1 *or other entity participating in the pilot program under*
 2 *subsection (b) shall—*

3 *(1) provide the services described in paragraphs*
 4 *(3) and (4) of subsection (a) to eligible veterans, in-*
 5 *cluding, to the extent practicable, telehealth services*
 6 *that link the center or facility with Department of*
 7 *Veterans Affairs clinicians;*

8 *(2) use the clinical practice guidelines of the Vet-*
 9 *erans Health Administration or the Department of*
 10 *Defense in the provision of such services; and*

11 *(3) meet such other requirements as the Sec-*
 12 *retary shall require.*

13 *(f) COMPLIANCE WITH DEPARTMENT PROTOCOLS.—*
 14 *Each community mental health center, facility of the In-*
 15 *dian Health Service, or other entity participating in the*
 16 *pilot program under subsection (b) shall comply with—*

17 *(1) applicable protocols of the Department before*
 18 *incurring any liability on behalf of the Department*
 19 *for the provision of services as part of the pilot pro-*
 20 *gram; and*

21 *(2) access and quality standards of the Depart-*
 22 *ment relevant to the provision of services as part of*
 23 *the pilot program.*

24 *(g) PROVISION OF CLINICAL INFORMATION.—Each*
 25 *community mental health center, facility of the Indian*

1 *Health Service, or other entity participating in the pilot*
 2 *program under subsection (b) shall, in a timely fashion,*
 3 *provide the Secretary with such clinical information on*
 4 *each veteran for whom such health center or facility pro-*
 5 *vides mental health services under the pilot program as the*
 6 *Secretary shall require.*

7 *(h) TRAINING.—*

8 *(1) TRAINING OF VETERANS.—As part of the*
 9 *pilot program, the Secretary shall carry out a pro-*
 10 *gram of training for veterans described in subsection*
 11 *(a) to provide the services described in paragraphs (1)*
 12 *and (2) of such subsection.*

13 *(2) TRAINING OF CLINICIANS.—*

14 *(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-*
 15 *duct a training program for clinicians of com-*
 16 *munity mental health centers, Indian Health*
 17 *Service facilities, or other entities participating*
 18 *in the pilot program under subsection (b) to en-*
 19 *sure that such clinicians can provide the services*
 20 *described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection*
 21 *(a) in a manner that accounts for factors that*
 22 *are unique to the experiences of veterans who*
 23 *served on active duty in Operation Iraqi Free-*
 24 *dom or Operation Enduring Freedom (including*
 25 *their combat and military training experiences).*

1 (B) *PARTICIPATION IN TRAINING.*—*Per-*
 2 *sonnel of each community mental health center,*
 3 *facility of the Indian Health Service, or other*
 4 *entity participating in the pilot program under*
 5 *subsection (b) shall participate in the training*
 6 *program conducted pursuant to subparagraph*
 7 *(A).*

8 (i) *ANNUAL REPORTS.*—*Each community mental*
 9 *health center, facility of the Indian Health Service, or other*
 10 *entity participating in the pilot program under subsection*
 11 *(b) shall submit to the Secretary on an annual basis a re-*
 12 *port containing, with respect to the provision of services*
 13 *under subsection (b) and for the last full calendar year end-*
 14 *ing before the submission of such report—*

15 (1) *the number of—*

16 (A) *veterans served; and*

17 (B) *courses of treatment provided; and*

18 (2) *demographic information for such services,*
 19 *diagnoses, and courses of treatment.*

20 (j) *PROGRAM EVALUATION.*—

21 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall, through*
 22 *Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Serv-*
 23 *ices investigators and in collaboration with relevant*
 24 *program offices of the Department, design and imple-*
 25 *ment a strategy for evaluating the pilot program.*

(2) *ELEMENTS.*—*The strategy implemented under paragraph (1) shall assess the impact that contracting with community mental health centers, the Indian Health Service, and other entities participating in the pilot program under subsection (b) has on the following:*

(A) *Access to mental health care by veterans in need of such care.*

(B) *The use of telehealth services by veterans for mental health care needs.*

(C) *The quality of mental health care and substance use disorder treatment services provided to veterans in need of such care and services.*

(D) *The coordination of mental health care and other medical services provided to veterans.*

(k) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this section:*

(1) *The term “community mental health center” has the meaning given such term in section 410.2 of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act).*

(2) *The term “eligible veteran” means a veteran in need of mental health services who—*

(A) *is enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system; and*

1 (B) has received a referral from a health
 2 professional of the Veterans Health Administra-
 3 tion to a community mental health center, a fa-
 4 cility of the Indian Health Service, or other enti-
 5 ty for purposes of the pilot program.

6 (3) The term “Indian Health Service” means the
 7 organization established by section 601(a) of the In-
 8 dian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C.
 9 1661(a)).

10 (l) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—There is
 11 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
 12 essary to carry out the provisions of this section.

13 ***TITLE II—MENTAL HEALTH*** 14 ***RESEARCH***

15 ***SEC. 201. RESEARCH PROGRAM ON COMORBID POST-TRAU-*** 16 ***MATIC STRESS DISORDER AND SUBSTANCE*** 17 ***USE DISORDERS.***

18 (a) *PROGRAM REQUIRED.*—The Secretary of Veterans
 19 Affairs shall, through the Office of Research and Develop-
 20 ment, carry out a program of research into comorbid post-
 21 traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance use dis-
 22 order.

23 (b) *DISCHARGE THROUGH NATIONAL CENTER FOR*
 24 *POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.*—The research pro-
 25 gram required by subsection (a) shall be carried out by the

1 *National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. In car-*
 2 *rying out the program, the Center shall—*

3 *(1) develop protocols and goals with respect to*
 4 *research under the program; and*

5 *(2) coordinate research, data collection, and data*
 6 *dissemination under the program.*

7 *(c) RESEARCH.—The program of research required by*
 8 *subsection (a) shall address the following:*

9 *(1) Comorbid post-traumatic stress disorder and*
 10 *substance use disorder.*

11 *(2) The systematic integration of treatment for*
 12 *post-traumatic stress disorder with treatment for sub-*
 13 *stance use disorder.*

14 *(3) The development of protocols to evaluate care*
 15 *of veterans with comorbid post-traumatic stress dis-*
 16 *order and substance use disorder.*

17 *(d) FUNDING.—*

18 *(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—*
 19 *There is authorized to be appropriated for the Depart-*
 20 *ment of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal years 2009*
 21 *through 2012, \$2,000,000 to carry out this section.*

22 *(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be*
 23 *appropriated by paragraph (1) shall be made avail-*
 24 *able to the National Center on Posttraumatic Stress*
 25 *Disorder for the purpose specified in that paragraph.*

1 (3) *SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.*—Any amount
 2 *made available to the National Center on*
 3 *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder for a fiscal year under*
 4 *paragraph (2) is in addition to any other amounts*
 5 *made available to the National Center on*
 6 *Posttraumatic Stress Disorder for such year under*
 7 *any other provision of law.*

8 **SEC. 202. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR SPECIAL**
 9 **COMMITTEE ON POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS**
 10 **DISORDER.**

11 *Section 110(e)(2) of the Veterans' Health Care Act of*
 12 *1984 (38 U.S.C. 1712A note; Public Law 98–528) is*
 13 *amended by striking “through 2008” and inserting*
 14 *“through 2012”.*

15 **TITLE III—ASSISTANCE FOR**
 16 **FAMILIES OF VETERANS**

17 **SEC. 301. CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY**
 18 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PROVIDE MENTAL**
 19 **HEALTH SERVICES TO FAMILIES OF VET-**
 20 **ERANS.**

21 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Chapter 17 is amended—
 22 (1) *in section 1701(5)(B)—*
 23 (A) *by inserting “marriage and family*
 24 *counseling,” after “professional counseling,”; and*

1 (B) by striking “as may be essential to”
 2 and inserting “as the Secretary considers appro-
 3 priate for”; and
 4 (2) in section 1782—

5 (A) in subsection (a), by inserting “mar-
 6 riage and family counseling,” after “professional
 7 counseling,”; and

8 (B) in subsection (b)—

9 (i) by inserting “marriage and family
 10 counseling,” after “professional coun-
 11 seling,”; and

12 (ii) by striking “if—” and all that fol-
 13 lows and inserting a period.

14 (b) LOCATION.—Paragraph (5) of section 1701 of title
 15 38, United States Code, shall not be construed to prevent
 16 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from providing services
 17 described in subparagraph (B) of such paragraph to indi-
 18 viduals described in such subparagraph in centers under
 19 section 1712A of such title (commonly referred to as “Vet
 20 Centers”), Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers,
 21 community-based outpatient clinics, or in such other facili-
 22 ties of the Department of Veterans Affairs as the Secretary
 23 considers necessary.

1 **SEC. 302. PILOT PROGRAM ON PROVISION OF READJUST-**
 2 **MENT AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE TO VET-**
 3 **ERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN COOPERA-**
 4 **TION WITH VET CENTERS.**

5 (a) *PILOT PROGRAM.*—*The Secretary of Veterans Af-*
 6 *airs shall carry out, through a non-Department of Veterans*
 7 *Affairs entity, a pilot program to assess the feasibility and*
 8 *advisability of providing readjustment and transition as-*
 9 *sistance described in subsection (b) to veterans and their*
 10 *families in cooperation with centers under section 1712A*
 11 *of title 38, United States Code (commonly referred to as*
 12 *“Vet Centers”).*

13 (b) *READJUSTMENT AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE.*—
 14 *Readjustment and transition assistance described in this*
 15 *subsection is assistance as follows:*

16 (1) *Readjustment and transition assistance that*
 17 *is preemptive, proactive, and principle-centered.*

18 (2) *Assistance and training for veterans and*
 19 *their families in coping with the challenges associated*
 20 *with making the transition from military to civilian*
 21 *life.*

22 (c) *NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ENTI-*
 23 *TY.*—

24 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary shall carry out*
 25 *the pilot program through any for-profit or non-profit*
 26 *organization selected by the Secretary for purposes of*

1 *the pilot program that has demonstrated expertise*
 2 *and experience in the provision of assistance and*
 3 *training described in subsection (b).*

4 (2) *CONTRACT OR AGREEMENT.—The Secretary*
 5 *shall carry out the pilot program through a non-De-*
 6 *partment entity described in paragraph (1) pursuant*
 7 *to a contract or other agreement entered into by the*
 8 *Secretary and the entity for purposes of the pilot pro-*
 9 *gram.*

10 (d) *COMMENCEMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot*
 11 *program shall commence not later than 180 days after the*
 12 *date of the enactment of this Act.*

13 (e) *DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot pro-*
 14 *gram shall be carried out during the three-year period be-*
 15 *ginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot pro-*
 16 *gram, and may be carried out for additional one-year peri-*
 17 *ods thereafter.*

18 (f) *LOCATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—*

19 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide*
 20 *assistance under the pilot program in cooperation*
 21 *with 10 centers described in subsection (a) designated*
 22 *by the Secretary for purposes of the pilot program.*

23 (2) *DESIGNATIONS.—In designating centers de-*
 24 *scribed in subsection (a) for purposes of the pilot pro-*
 25 *gram, the Secretary shall designate centers so as to*

1 *provide a balanced geographical representation of*
2 *such centers throughout the United States, including*
3 *the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puer-*
4 *to Rico, tribal lands, and other territories and posses-*
5 *sions of the United States.*

6 *(g) PARTICIPATION OF CENTERS.—A center described*
7 *in subsection (a) that is designated under subsection (f) for*
8 *participation in the pilot program shall participate in the*
9 *pilot program by promoting awareness of the assistance and*
10 *training available to veterans and their families through—*

11 *(1) the facilities and other resources of such cen-*
12 *ter;*

13 *(2) the non-Department of Veterans Affairs enti-*
14 *ty selected pursuant to subsection (c); and*

15 *(3) other appropriate mechanisms.*

16 *(h) ADDITIONAL SUPPORT.—In carrying out the pilot*
17 *program, the Secretary may enter into contracts or other*
18 *agreements, in addition to the contract or agreement de-*
19 *scribed in subsection (c), with such other non-Department*
20 *of Veterans Affairs entities meeting the requirements of sub-*
21 *section (c) as the Secretary considers appropriate for pur-*
22 *poses of the pilot program.*

23 *(i) REPORT ON PILOT PROGRAM.—*

24 *(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than three*
25 *years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the*

1 *Secretary shall submit to the congressional veterans*
 2 *affairs committees a report on the pilot program.*

3 (2) *ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph*
 4 *(1) shall include the following:*

5 (A) *A description of the activities under the*
 6 *pilot program as of the date of such report, in-*
 7 *cluding the number of veterans and families pro-*
 8 *vided assistance under the pilot program and the*
 9 *scope and nature of the assistance so provided.*

10 (B) *A current assessment of the effectiveness*
 11 *of the pilot program.*

12 (C) *Any recommendations that the Sec-*
 13 *retary considers appropriate for the extension or*
 14 *expansion of the pilot program.*

15 (3) *CONGRESSIONAL VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMIT-*
 16 *TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “con-*
 17 *gressional veterans affairs committees” means—*

18 (A) *the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs and*
 19 *Appropriations of the Senate; and*

20 (B) *the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs*
 21 *and Appropriations of the House of Representa-*
 22 *tives.*

23 (j) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—*

24 (1) *IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be ap-*
 25 *propriated for the Department of Veterans Affairs for*

1 *each of fiscal years 2009 through 2011 \$1,000,000 to*
 2 *carry out this section.*

3 (2) *AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be*
 4 *appropriated by paragraph (1) shall remain available*
 5 *until expended.*

6 ***TITLE IV—HEALTH CARE***
 7 ***MATTERS***

8 ***SEC. 401. VETERANS BENEFICIARY TRAVEL PROGRAM.***

9 (a) *REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO ADJUST AMOUNTS*
 10 *DEDUCTED FROM PAYMENTS OR ALLOWANCES FOR BENE-*
 11 *FICIARY TRAVEL.—*

12 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Section 111(c) is amended—*

13 (A) *by striking paragraph (5); and*

14 (B) *in paragraph (2), by striking “, except*
 15 *as provided in paragraph (5) of this sub-*
 16 *section,”.*

17 (2) *REINSTATEMENT OF AMOUNT OF DEDUCTION*
 18 *SPECIFIED BY STATUTE.—Notwithstanding any ad-*
 19 *justment made by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
 20 *under paragraph (5) of section 111(c) of title 38,*
 21 *United States Code, as such paragraph was in effect*
 22 *before the date of the enactment of this Act, the*
 23 *amount deducted under paragraph (1) of such section*
 24 *111(c) on or after such date shall be the amount spec-*
 25 *ified in such paragraph.*

1 (b) *DETERMINATION OF MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT*

2 *RATE.*—Section 111(g) is amended—

3 (1) *by amending paragraph (1) to read as fol-*
4 *lows:*

5 “(1) *Subject to paragraph (3), in determining the*
6 *amount of allowances or reimbursement to be paid under*
7 *this section, the Secretary shall use the mileage reimburse-*
8 *ment rate for the use of privately owned vehicles by Govern-*
9 *ment employees on official business (when a Government*
10 *vehicle is available), as prescribed by the Administrator of*
11 *General Services under section 5707(b) of title 5.”;*

12 (2) *by striking paragraphs (3) and (4); and*

13 (3) *by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-*
14 *lowing new paragraph (3):*

15 “(3) *Subject to the availability of appropriations, the*
16 *Secretary may modify the amount of allowances or reim-*
17 *bursement to be paid under this section using a mileage*
18 *reimbursement rate in excess of that prescribed under para-*
19 *graph (1).”.*

20 (c) *REPORT.*—Not later than 14 months after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
22 fairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
23 the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
24 House of Representatives a report containing an estimate

1 of the additional costs incurred by the Department of Vet-
 2 erans Affairs because of this section, including—

3 (1) any costs resulting from increased utilization
 4 of healthcare services by veterans eligible for travel al-
 5 lowances or reimbursements under section 111 of title
 6 38, United States Code; and

7 (2) the additional costs that would be incurred
 8 by the Department should the Secretary exercise the
 9 authority described in subsection (g)(3) of such sec-
 10 tion.

11 (d) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—The amendments made by this
 12 section shall apply with respect to travel expenses incurred
 13 after the expiration of the 90-day period that begins on the
 14 date of the enactment of this Act.

15 **SEC. 402. MANDATORY REIMBURSEMENT OF VETERANS RE-**
 16 **CEIVING EMERGENCY TREATMENT IN NON-**
 17 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FACILI-**
 18 **TIES UNTIL TRANSFER TO DEPARTMENT FA-**
 19 **CILITIES.**

20 (a) *CERTAIN VETERANS WITHOUT SERVICE-CON-*
 21 *NECTED DISABILITY.*—Section 1725 is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “may reim-
 23 burse” and inserting “shall reimburse”; and

(2) *in subsection (f)(1), by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following new subparagraph (C):*

“(C) until—

“(i) such time as the veteran can be transferred safely to a Department facility or other Federal facility and such facility is capable of accepting such transfer; or

“(ii) such time as a Department facility or other Federal facility accepts such transfer if—

“(I) at the time the veteran could have been transferred safely to a Department facility or other Federal facility, no Department facility or other Federal facility agreed to accept such transfer; and

“(II) the non-Department facility in which such medical care or services was furnished made and documented reasonable attempts to transfer the veteran to a Department facility or other Federal facility.”.

(b) CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY.—Section 1728 is amended—

1 (1) *by striking subsection (a) and inserting the*
 2 *following new subsection (a):*

3 “(a) *The Secretary shall, under such regulations as the*
 4 *Secretary prescribes, reimburse veterans eligible for hospital*
 5 *care or medical services under this chapter for the cus-*
 6 *tomary and usual charges of emergency treatment (includ-*
 7 *ing travel and incidental expenses under the terms and con-*
 8 *ditions set forth in section 111 of this title) for which such*
 9 *veterans have made payment, from sources other than the*
 10 *Department, where such emergency treatment was rendered*
 11 *to such veterans in need thereof for any of the following:*

12 “(1) *An adjudicated service-connected disability.*

13 “(2) *A non-service-connected disability associ-*
 14 *ated with and held to be aggravating a service-con-*
 15 *nected disability.*

16 “(3) *Any disability of a veteran if the veteran*
 17 *has a total disability permanent in nature from a*
 18 *service-connected disability.*

19 “(4) *Any illness, injury, or dental condition of*
 20 *a veteran who—*

21 “(A) *is a participant in a vocational reha-*
 22 *bilitation program (as defined in section 3101(9)*
 23 *of this title); and*

24 “(B) *is medically determined to have been*
 25 *in need of care or treatment to make possible the*

1 veteran’s entrance into a course of training, or
 2 prevent interruption of a course of training, or
 3 hasten the return to a course of training which
 4 was interrupted because of such illness, injury,
 5 or dental condition.”;

6 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “care or serv-
 7 ices” both places it appears and inserting “emergency
 8 treatment”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 10 section:

11 “(c) In this section, the term ‘emergency treatment’ has
 12 the meaning given such term in section 1725(f)(1) of this
 13 title.”.

14 **SEC. 403. PILOT PROGRAM OF ENHANCED CONTRACT CARE**
 15 **AUTHORITY FOR HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF**
 16 **VETERANS IN HIGHLY RURAL AREAS.**

17 (a) *PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.*—

18 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
 19 fairs shall conduct a pilot program under which the
 20 Secretary provides covered health services to covered
 21 veterans through qualifying non-Department of Vet-
 22 erans Affairs health care providers.

23 (2) *COMMENCEMENT.*—The Secretary shall com-
 24 mence the conduct of the pilot program on the date

1 *that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of*
2 *this Act.*

3 (3) *TERMINATION.*—*A veteran may receive*
4 *health services under the pilot program only during*
5 *the three-year period beginning on the date of the*
6 *commencement of the pilot program under paragraph*
7 *(2).*

8 (4) *PROGRAM LOCATIONS.*—*The pilot program*
9 *shall be carried out within areas selected by the Sec-*
10 *retary for the purposes of the pilot program in at*
11 *least five Veterans Integrated Service Networks*
12 *(VISNs). Of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks*
13 *so selected—*

14 (A) *not less than four such networks shall*
15 *include at least three highly rural counties, as*
16 *determined by the Secretary upon consideration*
17 *of the most recent decennial census;*

18 (B) *not less than one such network, not in-*
19 *cluding a network selected under subparagraph*
20 *(A), shall include only one highly rural county,*
21 *as determined by the Secretary upon consider-*
22 *ation of the most recent decennial census;*

23 (C) *all such networks shall include area*
24 *within the borders of at least four States; and*

1 (D) *no such networks shall be participants*
 2 *in the Healthcare Effectiveness through Resource*
 3 *Optimization pilot program of the Department*
 4 *of Veterans Affairs.*

5 (b) *COVERED VETERANS.—*

6 (1) *IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the pilot pro-*
 7 *gram under this section, a covered veteran is any*
 8 *highly rural veteran who is—*

9 (A) *enrolled in the system of patient enroll-*
 10 *ment established under section 1705(a) of title*
 11 *38, United States Code, as of the date of the com-*
 12 *mencement of the pilot program under subsection*
 13 *(a)(2); or*

14 (B) *eligible for health care under section*
 15 *1710(e)(3)(C) of title 38, United States Code.*

16 (2) *HIGHLY RURAL VETERANS.—For purposes of*
 17 *this subsection, a highly rural veteran is any veteran*
 18 *who—*

19 (A) *resides in a location that is—*

20 (i) *more than 60 miles driving dis-*
 21 *tance from the nearest Department health*
 22 *care facility providing primary care serv-*
 23 *ices, if the veteran is seeking such services;*

24 (ii) *more than 120 miles driving dis-*
 25 *tance from the nearest Department health*

1 care facility providing acute hospital care,
2 if the veteran is seeking such care; or

3 (iii) more than 240 miles driving dis-
4 tance from the nearest Department health
5 care facility providing tertiary care, if the
6 veteran is seeking such care; or

7 (B) in the case of a veteran who resides in
8 a location less than the distance specified in
9 clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of subparagraph (A), as
10 applicable, experiences such hardship or other
11 difficulties in travel to the nearest appropriate
12 Department health care facility that such travel
13 is not in the best interest of the veteran, as deter-
14 mined by the Secretary pursuant to regulations
15 prescribed for purposes of this subsection.

16 (c) *COVERED HEALTH SERVICES*.—For purposes of the
17 pilot program under this section, a covered health service
18 with respect to a covered veteran is any hospital care, med-
19 ical service, rehabilitative service, or preventative health
20 service that is authorized to be provided by the Secretary
21 to the veteran under chapter 17 of title 38, United States
22 Code, or any other provision of law.

23 (d) *QUALIFYING NON-DEPARTMENT HEALTH CARE*
24 *PROVIDERS*.—For purposes of the pilot program under this
25 section, an entity or individual is a qualifying non-Depart-

1 ment health care provider of a covered health service if the
2 Secretary determines that the entity or individual is quali-
3 fied to furnish such service to veterans under the pilot pro-
4 gram.

5 (e) *ELECTION.*—A covered veteran seeking to be pro-
6 vided covered health services under the pilot program under
7 this section shall submit to the Secretary an application
8 therefor in such form, and containing such information as
9 the Secretary shall specify for purposes of the pilot pro-
10 gram.

11 (f) *PROVISION OF SERVICES THROUGH CONTRACT.*—
12 The Secretary shall provide covered health services to vet-
13 erans under the pilot program under this section through
14 contracts with qualifying non-Department health care pro-
15 viders for the provision of such services.

16 (g) *EXCHANGE OF MEDICAL INFORMATION.*—In con-
17 ducting the pilot program under this section, the Secretary
18 shall develop and utilize a functional capability to provide
19 for the exchange of appropriate medical information be-
20 tween the Department and non-Department health care
21 providers providing health services under the pilot program.

22 (h) *REPORTS.*—Not later than the 30 days after the
23 end of each year in which the pilot program under this sec-
24 tion is conducted, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
25 mittee of Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee

1 *on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report*
 2 *which includes—*

3 (1) *the assessment of the Secretary of the pilot*
 4 *program during the preceding year, including its*
 5 *cost, volume, quality, patient satisfaction, benefit to*
 6 *veterans, and such other findings and conclusions*
 7 *with respect to pilot program as the Secretary con-*
 8 *siders appropriate; and*

9 (2) *such recommendations as the Secretary con-*
 10 *siders appropriate regarding—*

11 (A) *the continuation of the pilot program;*

12 (B) *extension of the pilot program to other*
 13 *or all Veterans Integrated Service Networks of*
 14 *the Department;*

15 (C) *making the pilot program permanent.*

16 **SEC. 404. EPILEPSY CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

17 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subchapter II of chapter 73 is
 18 *amended by adding at the end the following new section:*

19 **“§ 7330A. Epilepsy centers of excellence**

20 “(a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.*—(1) *Not later*
 21 *than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the Vet-*
 22 *erans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of*
 23 *2008, the Secretary shall designate at least four but not*
 24 *more than six Department health care facilities as locations*
 25 *for epilepsy centers of excellence for the Department.*

1 “(2) *Of the facilities designated under paragraph (1),*
 2 *not less than two shall be centers designated under section*
 3 *7327 of this title.*

4 “(3) *Of the facilities designated under paragraph (1),*
 5 *not less than two shall be facilities that are not centers des-*
 6 *ignated under section 7327 of this title.*

7 “(4) *Subject to the availability of appropriations for*
 8 *such purpose, the Secretary shall establish and operate an*
 9 *epilepsy center of excellence at each location designated*
 10 *under paragraph (1).*

11 “(b) *DESIGNATION OF FACILITIES.—(1) In desig-*
 12 *nating locations for epilepsy centers of excellence under sub-*
 13 *section (a), the Secretary shall solicit proposals from De-*
 14 *partment health care facilities seeking designation as a lo-*
 15 *cation for an epilepsy center of excellence.*

16 “(2) *The Secretary may not designate a facility as a*
 17 *location for an epilepsy center of excellence under subsection*
 18 *(a) unless the peer review panel established under subsection*
 19 *(c) has determined under that subsection that the proposal*
 20 *submitted by such facility seeking designation as a location*
 21 *for an epilepsy center of excellence is among those proposals*
 22 *that meet the highest competitive standards of scientific and*
 23 *clinical merit.*

24 “(3) *In choosing from among the facilities meeting the*
 25 *requirements of paragraph (2), the Secretary shall also con-*

1 *sider appropriate geographic distribution when designating*
 2 *the epilepsy centers of excellence under subsection (a).*

3 “(c) *PEER REVIEW PANEL.—(1) The Under Secretary*
 4 *for Health shall establish a peer review panel to assess the*
 5 *scientific and clinical merit of proposals that are submitted*
 6 *to the Secretary for the designation of epilepsy centers of*
 7 *excellence under this section.*

8 “(2)(A) *The membership of the peer review panel shall*
 9 *consist of experts on epilepsy, including post-traumatic epi-*
 10 *lepsy.*

11 “(B) *Members of the peer review panel shall serve for*
 12 *a period of no longer than two years, except as specified*
 13 *in subparagraph (C).*

14 “(C) *Of the members first appointed to the panel, one*
 15 *half shall be appointed for a period of three years and one*
 16 *half shall be appointed for a period of two years, as des-*
 17 *ignated by the Under Secretary at the time of appointment.*

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

22 “(4) *The peer review panel shall, in conjunction with*
 23 *the national coordinator designated under subsection (e),*
 24 *conduct regular evaluations of each epilepsy center of excel-*

1 *lence established and operated under subsection (a) to en-*
 2 *sure compliance with the requirements of this section.*

3 “(5) *The peer review panel shall not be subject to the*
 4 *Federal Advisory Committee Act.*

5 “(d) *EPILEPSY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE DEFINED.—*
 6 *In this section, the term ‘epilepsy center of excellence’ means*
 7 *a health care facility that has (or in the foreseeable future*
 8 *can develop) the necessary capacity to function as a center*
 9 *of excellence in research, education, and clinical care activi-*
 10 *ties in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy and has (or*
 11 *may reasonably be anticipated to develop) each of the fol-*
 12 *lowing:*

13 “(1) *An affiliation with an accredited medical*
 14 *school that provides education and training in neu-*
 15 *rology, including an arrangement with such school*
 16 *under which medical residents receive education and*
 17 *training in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy*
 18 *(including neurosurgery).*

19 “(2) *The ability to attract the participation of*
 20 *scientists who are capable of ingenuity and creativity*
 21 *in health care research efforts.*

22 “(3) *An advisory committee composed of veterans*
 23 *and appropriate health care and research representa-*
 24 *tives of the facility and of the affiliated school or*
 25 *schools to advise the directors of such facility and*

1 *such center on policy matters pertaining to the activi-*
 2 *ties of the center during the period of the operation*
 3 *of such center.*

4 *“(4) The capability to conduct effectively evalua-*
 5 *tions of the activities of such center.*

6 *“(5) The capability to assist in the expansion of*
 7 *the Department’s use of information systems and*
 8 *databases to improve the quality and delivery of care*
 9 *for veterans enrolled within the Department’s health*
 10 *care system.*

11 *“(6) The capability to assist in the expansion of*
 12 *the Department telehealth program to develop, trans-*
 13 *mit, monitor, and review neurological diagnostic*
 14 *tests.*

15 *“(7) The ability to perform epilepsy research,*
 16 *education, and clinical care activities in collaboration*
 17 *with Department medical facilities that have centers*
 18 *for research, education, and clinical care activities on*
 19 *complex multi-trauma associated with combat inju-*
 20 *ries established under section 7327 of this title.*

21 *“(e) NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR EPILEPSY PRO-*
 22 *GRAMS.—(1) To assist the Secretary and the Under Sec-*
 23 *retary for Health in carrying out this section, the Secretary*
 24 *shall designate an individual in the Veterans Health Ad-*

1 *ministration to act as a national coordinator for epilepsy*
2 *programs of the Veterans Health Administration.*

3 “(2) *The duties of the national coordinator for epilepsy*
4 *programs shall include the following:*

5 “(A) *To supervise the operation of the centers es-*
6 *tablished pursuant to this section.*

7 “(B) *To coordinate and support the national*
8 *consortium of providers with interest in treating epi-*
9 *lepsy at Department health care facilities lacking*
10 *such centers in order to ensure better access to state-*
11 *of-the-art diagnosis, research, clinical care, and edu-*
12 *cation for traumatic brain injury and epilepsy*
13 *throughout the health care system of the Department.*

14 “(C) *To conduct, in conjunction with the peer re-*
15 *view panel established under subsection (c), regular*
16 *evaluations of the epilepsy centers of excellence to en-*
17 *sure compliance with the requirements of this sec-*
18 *tion.*

19 “(D) *To coordinate (as part of an integrated na-*
20 *tional system) education, clinical care, and research*
21 *activities within all facilities with an epilepsy center*
22 *of excellence.*

23 “(E) *To develop jointly a national consortium of*
24 *providers with interest in treating epilepsy at De-*
25 *partment health care facilities lacking an epilepsy*

1 *center of excellence in order to ensure better access to*
 2 *state-of-the-art diagnosis, research, clinical care, and*
 3 *education for traumatic brain injury and epilepsy*
 4 *throughout the health care system of the Department.*
 5 *Such consortium should include a designated epilepsy*
 6 *referral clinic in each Veterans Integrated Service*
 7 *Network.*

8 *“(3) In carrying out duties under this subsection, the*
 9 *national coordinator for epilepsy programs shall report to*
 10 *the official of the Veterans Health Administration respon-*
 11 *sible for neurology.*

12 *“(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1) There*
 13 *are authorized to be appropriated \$6,000,000 for each of*
 14 *fiscal years 2009 through 2013 for the support of the clin-*
 15 *ical care, research, and education activities of the epilepsy*
 16 *centers of excellence established and operated pursuant to*
 17 *subsection (a)(2).*

18 *“(2) There are authorized to be appropriated for each*
 19 *fiscal year after fiscal year 2013 such sums as may be nec-*
 20 *essary for the support of the clinical care, research, and edu-*
 21 *cation activities of the epilepsy centers of excellence estab-*
 22 *lished and operated pursuant to subsection (a)(2).*

23 *“(3) The Secretary shall ensure that funds for such*
 24 *centers are designated for the first three years of operation*
 25 *as a special purpose program for which funds are not allo-*

1 cated through the Veterans Equitable Resource Allocation
2 system.

3 “(4) In addition to amounts authorized to be appro-
4 priated under paragraphs (1) and (2) for a fiscal year, the
5 Under Secretary for Health shall allocate to such centers
6 from other funds appropriated generally for the Department
7 medical services account and medical and prosthetics re-
8 search account, as appropriate, such amounts as the Under
9 Secretary for Health determines appropriate.

10 “(5) In addition to amounts authorized to be appro-
11 priated under paragraphs (1) and (2) for a fiscal year,
12 there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may
13 be necessary to fund the national coordinator established
14 by subsection (e).”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at
16 the beginning of chapter 73 is amended by inserting after
17 the item relating to section 7330 the following new item:

“7330A. Epilepsy centers of excellence.”.

18 **SEC. 405. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR PEER**
19 **SPECIALIST APPOINTEES.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7402(b) is amended—

21 (1) by redesignating the paragraph (11) relating
22 to other health care positions as paragraph (14); and

23 (2) by inserting after paragraph (12) the fol-
24 lowing new paragraph (13):

1 “(13) *PEER SPECIALIST*.—To be eligible to be ap-
 2 pointed to a peer specialist position, a person must—

3 “(A) be a veteran who has recovered or is recov-
 4 ering from a mental health condition; and

5 “(B) be certified by—

6 “(i) a not-for-profit entity engaged in peer
 7 specialist training as having met such criteria as
 8 the Secretary shall establish for a peer specialist
 9 position; or

10 “(ii) a State as having satisfied relevant
 11 State requirements for a peer specialist posi-
 12 tion.”.

13 (b) *PEER SPECIALIST TRAINING*.—Section 7402 is
 14 amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

15 “(g) The Secretary may enter into contracts with not-
 16 for-profit entities to provide—

17 “(1) peer specialist training to veterans; and

18 “(2) certification for veterans under subsection

19 (b)(13)(B)(i).”.

20 **SEC. 406. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSOLIDATED PATIENT AC-**
 21 **COUNTING CENTERS.**

22 (a) *ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS*.—Chapter 17 is
 23 amended by inserting after section 1729A the following new
 24 section:

1 **“§ 1729B. Consolidated patient accounting centers**

2 “(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than five years after the
3 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Vet-
4 erans Affairs shall establish not more than seven consoli-
5 dated patient accounting centers for conducting industry-
6 modeled regionalized billing and collection activities of the
7 Department.

8 “(b) *FUNCTIONS.*—The centers shall carry out the fol-
9 lowing functions:

10 “(1) *Reengineer and integrate all business proc-*
11 *esses of the revenue cycle of the Department.*

12 “(2) *Standardize and coordinate all activities of*
13 *the Department related to the revenue cycle for all*
14 *health care services furnished to veterans for non-serv-*
15 *ice-connected medical conditions.*

16 “(3) *Apply commercial industry standards for*
17 *measures of access, timeliness, and performance*
18 *metrics with respect to revenue enhancement of the*
19 *Department.*

20 “(4) *Apply other requirements with respect to*
21 *such revenue cycle improvement as the Secretary may*
22 *specify.”.*

23 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The table of sections at
24 the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after
25 the item relating to section 1729A the following:

“1729B. Consolidated patient accounting centers.”.

1 **SEC. 407. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY TO CON-**
 2 **DUCT WIDESPREAD HIV TESTING PROGRAM.**

3 *Section 124 of the Veterans' Benefits and Services Act*
 4 *of 1988 (title I of Public Law 100–322, as amended; 38*
 5 *U.S.C. 7333 note) is repealed.*

6 **SEC. 408. PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE**
 7 **BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO**
 8 **CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS BORN**
 9 **WITH SPINA BIFIDA.**

10 *(a) PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE.—*
 11 *Section 1803(a) is amended by striking “such health care*
 12 *as the Secretary determines is needed by the child for the*
 13 *spina bifida or any disability that is associated with such*
 14 *condition” and inserting “health care under this section”.*

15 *(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by sub-*
 16 *section (a) shall apply with respect to care furnished after*
 17 *the date of the enactment of this Act.*

18 **SEC. 409. EXEMPTION FROM COPAYMENT REQUIREMENT**
 19 **FOR VETERANS RECEIVING HOSPICE CARE.**

20 *Section 1710 is amended—*

21 *(1) in subsection (f)(1), by inserting “(except if*
 22 *such care constitutes hospice care)” after “nursing*
 23 *home care”; and*

24 *(2) in subsection (g)(1), by inserting “(except if*
 25 *such care constitutes hospice care)” after “medical*
 26 *services”.*

TITLE V—PAIN CARE

SEC. 501. COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON PAIN MANAGEMENT.

(a) COMPREHENSIVE POLICY REQUIRED.—Not later than October 1, 2009, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and implement a comprehensive policy on the management of pain experienced by veterans enrolled for health care services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) SCOPE OF POLICY.—The policy required by subsection (a) shall cover each of the following:

(1) The Department-wide management of acute and chronic pain experienced by veterans.

(2) The standard of care for pain management to be used throughout the Department.

(3) The consistent application of pain assessments to be used throughout the Department.

(4) The assurance of prompt and appropriate pain care treatment and management by the Department, system-wide, when medically necessary.

(5) Department programs of research related to acute and chronic pain suffered by veterans, including pain attributable to central and peripheral nervous system damage characteristic of injuries incurred in modern warfare.

1 (6) *Department programs of pain care education*
2 *and training for health care personnel of the Depart-*
3 *ment.*

4 (7) *Department programs of patient education*
5 *for veterans suffering from acute or chronic pain and*
6 *their families.*

7 (c) *UPDATES.—The Secretary shall revise the policy*
8 *required by subsection (a) on a periodic basis in accordance*
9 *with experience and evolving best practice guidelines.*

10 (d) *CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall develop the*
11 *policy required by subsection (a), and revise such policy*
12 *under subsection (c), in consultation with veterans service*
13 *organizations and organizations with expertise in the as-*
14 *essment, diagnosis, treatment, and management of pain.*

15 (e) *ANNUAL REPORT.—*

16 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after*
17 *the date of the completion and initial implementation*
18 *of the policy required by subsection (a) and on Octo-*
19 *ber 1 of every fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year*
20 *2018, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on*
21 *Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on*
22 *Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a re-*
23 *port on the implementation of the policy required by*
24 *subsection (a).*

(2) *CONTENTS.*—*The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:*

(A) *A description of the policy developed and implemented under subsection (a) and any revisions to such policy under subsection (c).*

(B) *A description of the performance measures used to determine the effectiveness of such policy in improving pain care for veterans system-wide.*

(C) *An assessment of the adequacy of Department pain management services based on a survey of patients managed in Department clinics.*

(D) *An assessment of the research projects of the Department relevant to the treatment of the types of acute and chronic pain suffered by veterans.*

(E) *An assessment of the training provided to Department health care personnel with respect to the diagnosis, treatment, and management of acute and chronic pain.*

(F) *An assessment of the patient pain care education programs of the Department.*

(f) *VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEFINED.*—*In this section, the term “veterans service organization” means*

1 *any organization recognized by the Secretary for the rep-*
 2 *resentation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38,*
 3 *United States Code.*

4 ***TITLE VI—HOMELESS VETERANS***
 5 ***MATTERS***

6 ***SEC. 601. INCREASED AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-***
 7 ***TIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PRO-***
 8 ***GRAMS.***

9 *Section 2013 is amended by striking “\$130,000,000”*
 10 *and inserting “\$150,000,000”.*

11 ***SEC. 602. EXPANSION AND EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR***
 12 ***PROGRAM OF REFERRAL AND COUNSELING***
 13 ***SERVICES FOR AT-RISK VETERANS***
 14 ***TRANSITIONING FROM CERTAIN INSTITU-***
 15 ***TIONS.***

16 *(a) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—Subsection (a) of section*
 17 *2023 is amended by striking “a demonstration program for*
 18 *the purpose of determining the costs and benefits of pro-*
 19 *viding” and inserting “a program of”.*

20 *(b) SCOPE OF PROGRAM.—Subsection (b) of such sec-*
 21 *tion is amended—*

22 *(1) by striking “DEMONSTRATION” in the sub-*
 23 *section heading;*

24 *(2) by striking “demonstration”; and*

1 (3) *by striking “in at least six locations” and*
 2 *inserting “in at least 12 locations”.*

3 (c) *EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.*—Subsection (d) of
 4 *such section is amended by striking “shall cease” and all*
 5 *that follows and inserting “shall cease on September 30,*
 6 *2012.”.*

7 (d) *CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.*—

8 (1) *Subsection (c)(1) of such section is amended*
 9 *by striking “demonstration”.*

10 (2) *The heading of such section is amended to*
 11 *read as follows:*

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

15 (3) *Section 2022(f)(2)(C) of such title is amend-*
 16 *ed by striking “demonstration”.*

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

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

1 **SEC. 603. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR DOMICILIARY SERV-**
 2 **ICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS AND EN-**
 3 **HANCEMENT OF CAPACITY OF DOMICILIARY**
 4 **CARE PROGRAMS FOR FEMALE VETERANS.**

5 *Subsection (b) of section 2043 is amended to read as*
 6 *follows:*

7 *“(b) ENHANCEMENT OF CAPACITY OF DOMICILIARY*
 8 *CARE PROGRAMS FOR FEMALE VETERANS.—The Secretary*
 9 *shall take appropriate actions to ensure that the domi-*
 10 *ciliary care programs of the Department are adequate, with*
 11 *respect to capacity and with respect to safety, to meet the*
 12 *needs of veterans who are women.”.*

13 **SEC. 604. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERV-**
 14 **ICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMI-**
 15 **LIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.**

16 *(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to facili-*
 17 *tate the provision of supportive services for very low-income*
 18 *veteran families in permanent housing.*

19 *(b) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—*

20 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 20 is*
 21 *amended by adding at the end the following new sec-*
 22 *tion:*

1 **“§2044. Financial assistance for supportive services**
 2 **for very low-income veteran families in**
 3 **permanent housing**

4 “(a) *DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—(1)*
 5 *The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to eligible*
 6 *entities approved under this section to provide and coordi-*
 7 *nate the provision of supportive services described in sub-*
 8 *section (b) for very low-income veteran families occupying*
 9 *permanent housing.*

10 “(2) *Financial assistance under this section shall con-*
 11 *sist of grants for each such family for which an approved*
 12 *eligible entity is providing or coordinating the provision*
 13 *of supportive services.*

14 “(3)(A) *The Secretary shall provide such grants to*
 15 *each eligible entity that is providing or coordinating the*
 16 *provision of supportive services.*

17 “(B) *The Secretary is authorized to establish intervals*
 18 *of payment for the administration of such grants and estab-*
 19 *lish a maximum amount to be awarded, in accordance with*
 20 *the services being provided and their duration.*

21 “(4) *In providing financial assistance under para-*
 22 *graph (1), the Secretary shall give preference to entities pro-*
 23 *viding or coordinating the provision of supportive services*
 24 *for very low-income veteran families who are transitioning*
 25 *from homelessness to permanent housing.*

1 “(5) *The Secretary shall ensure that, to the extent*
 2 *practicable, financial assistance under this subsection is eq-*
 3 *uitably distributed across geographic regions, including*
 4 *rural communities and tribal lands.*

5 “(6) *Each entity receiving financial assistance under*
 6 *this section to provide supportive services to a very low-*
 7 *income veteran family shall notify that family that such*
 8 *services are being paid for, in whole or in part, by the De-*
 9 *partment.*

10 “(7) *The Secretary may require entities receiving fi-*
 11 *nancial assistance under this section to submit a report to*
 12 *the Secretary that describes the projects carried out with*
 13 *such financial assistance.*

14 “(b) *SUPPORTIVE SERVICES.—The supportive services*
 15 *referred to in subsection (a) are the following:*

16 “(1) *Services provided by an eligible entity or a*
 17 *subcontractor of an eligible entity that address the*
 18 *needs of very low-income veteran families occupying*
 19 *permanent housing, including—*

20 “(A) *outreach services;*

21 “(B) *case management services;*

22 “(C) *assistance in obtaining any benefits*
 23 *from the Department which the veteran may be*
 24 *eligible to receive, including, but not limited to,*
 25 *vocational and rehabilitation counseling, em-*

1 *ployment and training service, educational as-*
 2 *sistance, and health care services; and*

3 *“(D) assistance in obtaining and coordi-*
 4 *nating the provision of other public benefits pro-*
 5 *vided in federal, State, or local agencies, or any*
 6 *organization defined in subsection (f), includ-*
 7 *ing—*

8 *“(i) health care services (including ob-*
 9 *taining health insurance);*

10 *“(ii) daily living services;*

11 *“(iii) personal financial planning;*

12 *“(iv) transportation services;*

13 *“(v) income support services;*

14 *“(vi) fiduciary and representative*
 15 *payee services;*

16 *“(vii) legal services to assist the vet-*
 17 *eran family with issues that interfere with*
 18 *the family’s ability to obtain or retain*
 19 *housing or supportive services;*

20 *“(viii) child care;*

21 *“(ix) housing counseling; and*

22 *“(x) other services necessary for main-*
 23 *taining independent living.*

24 *“(2) Services described in paragraph (1) that are*
 25 *delivered to very low-income veteran families who are*

1 homeless and who are scheduled to become residents of
2 permanent housing within 90 days pending the loca-
3 tion or development of housing suitable for permanent
4 housing.

5 “(3) Services described in paragraph (1) for very
6 low-income veteran families who have voluntarily
7 chosen to seek other housing after a period of tenancy
8 in permanent housing, that are provided, for a period
9 of 90 days after such families exit permanent housing
10 or until such families commence receipt of other hous-
11 ing services adequate to meet their current needs, but
12 only to the extent that services under this paragraph
13 are designed to support such families in their choice
14 to transition into housing that is responsive to their
15 individual needs and preferences.

16 “(c) APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—(1)
17 An eligible entity seeking financial assistance under sub-
18 section (a) shall submit to the Secretary an application
19 therefor in such form, in such manner, and containing such
20 commitments and information as the Secretary determines
21 to be necessary to carry out this section.

22 “(2) Each application submitted by an eligible entity
23 under paragraph (1) shall contain—

1 “(A) a description of the supportive services pro-
2 posed to be provided by the eligible entity and the
3 identified needs for those services;

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

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

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

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

15 “(i) to coordinate the provision of sup-
16 portive services with the provision of permanent
17 housing by the eligible entity or by other organi-
18 zations;

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

22 “(iii) to coordinate the provision of sup-
23 portive services with the services of the Depart-
24 ment;

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

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

7 “(3) The Secretary shall establish criteria for the selec-
8 tion of eligible entities to be provided financial assistance
9 under this section.

10 “(d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—(1) The Secretary
11 shall provide training and technical assistance to partici-
12 pating eligible entities regarding the planning, develop-
13 ment, and provision of supportive services to very low-in-
14 come veteran families occupying permanent housing,
15 through the Technical Assistance grants program in section
16 2064 of this title.

17 “(2) The Secretary may provide the training described
18 in paragraph (1) directly or through grants or contracts
19 with appropriate public or nonprofit private entities.

20 “(e) FUNDING.—(1) From amounts appropriated to
21 the Department for Medical Services, there shall be avail-
22 able to carry out subsection (a), (b), and (c) amounts as
23 follows:

24 “(A) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.

25 “(B) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.

1 “(C) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2011.

2 “(2) Not more than \$750,000 may be available under
3 paragraph (1) in any fiscal year to provide technical assist-
4 ance under subsection (d).

5 “(3) There is authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000
6 for each of the fiscal year 2009 through 2011 to carry out
7 the provisions of subsection (d).

8 “(f) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section:

9 “(1) The term ‘consumer cooperative’ has the
10 meaning given such term in section 202 of the Hous-
11 ing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q).

12 “(2) The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

13 “(A) a private nonprofit organization; or

14 “(B) a consumer cooperative.

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

18 “(4) The term ‘permanent housing’ means com-
19 munity-based housing without a designated length of
20 stay.

21 “(5) The term ‘private nonprofit organization’
22 means any of the following:

23 “(A) Any incorporated private institution
24 or foundation—

1 “(i) no part of the net earnings of
2 which inures to the benefit of any member,
3 founder, contributor, or individual;

4 “(ii) which has a governing board that
5 is responsible for the operation of the sup-
6 portive services provided under this section;
7 and

8 “(iii) which is approved by the Sec-
9 retary as to financial responsibility.

10 “(B) A for-profit limited partnership, the
11 sole general partner of which is an organization
12 meeting the requirements of clauses (i), (ii), and
13 (iii) of subparagraph (A).

14 “(C) A corporation wholly owned and con-
15 trolled by an organization meeting the require-
16 ments of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subpara-
17 graph (A).

18 “(D) A tribally designated housing entity
19 (as defined in section 4 of the Native American
20 Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act
21 of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)).

22 “(6)(A) Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C),
23 the term ‘very low-income veteran family’ means a
24 veteran family whose income does not exceed 50 per-
25 cent of the median income for an area specified by the

1 *Secretary for purposes of this section, as determined*
 2 *by the Secretary in accordance with this paragraph.*

3 “(B) *The Secretary shall make appropriate ad-*
 4 *justments to the income requirement under subpara-*
 5 *graph (A) based on family size.*

6 “(C) *The Secretary may establish an income*
 7 *ceiling higher or lower than 50 percent of the median*
 8 *income for an area if the Secretary determines that*
 9 *such variations are necessary because the area has*
 10 *unusually high or low construction costs, fair market*
 11 *rents (as determined under section 8 of the United*
 12 *States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f)), or*
 13 *family incomes.*

14 “(7) *The term ‘veteran family’ includes a veteran*
 15 *who is a single person and a family in which the*
 16 *head of household or the spouse of the head of house-*
 17 *hold is a veteran.”.*

18 (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-*
 19 *tions at the beginning of chapter 20 is amended by*
 20 *inserting after the item relating to section 2043 the*
 21 *following new item:*

“2044. Financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran
 families in permanent housing.”.

22 (c) *STUDY OF EFFECTIVENESS OF PERMANENT HOUS-*
 23 *ING PROGRAM.—*

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—For fiscal years 2009 and
2 2010, the Secretary shall conduct a study of the effec-
3 tiveness of the permanent housing program under sec-
4 tion 2044 of title 38, United States Code, as added
5 by subsection (b), in meeting the needs of very low-
6 income veteran families, as that term is defined in
7 that section.

8 (2) *COMPARISON.*—In the study required by
9 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall compare the results
10 of the program referred to in that subsection with
11 other programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs
12 dedicated to the delivery of housing and services to
13 veterans.

14 (3) *CRITERIA.*—In making the comparison re-
15 quired in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall examine
16 the following:

17 (A) *The satisfaction of veterans targeted by*
18 the programs described in paragraph (2).

19 (B) *The health status of such veterans.*

20 (C) *The housing provided such veterans*
21 under such programs.

22 (D) *The degree to which such veterans are*
23 encouraged to productive activity by such pro-
24 grams.

1 (4) *REPORT.*—Not later than March 31, 2011,
 2 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
 3 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
 4 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a re-
 5 port on the results of the study required by paragraph
 6 (1).

7 ***TITLE VII—AUTHORIZATION OF***
 8 ***MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS***
 9 ***AND MAJOR MEDICAL FACIL-***
 10 ***ITY LEASES***

11 ***SEC. 701. AUTHORIZATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 MAJOR***
 12 ***MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.***

13 *The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the*
 14 *following major medical facility projects in fiscal year 2009*
 15 *in the amount specified for each project:*

16 (1) *Seismic corrections, Building 2, at the De-*
 17 *partment of Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care*
 18 *System, Palo Alto Division Palo Alto, California, in*
 19 *an amount not to exceed \$54,000,000.*

20 (2) *Construction of a polytrauma healthcare and*
 21 *rehabilitation center at the Department of Veterans*
 22 *Affairs Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, in an*
 23 *amount not to exceed \$66,000,000.*

24 (3) *Seismic corrections, Building 1, at the De-*
 25 *partment of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, San*

1 *Juan, Puerto Rico, in an amount not to exceed*
 2 *\$225,900,000.*

3 **SEC. 702. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION AMOUNTS**
 4 **FOR CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY**
 5 **CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY AU-**
 6 **THORIZED.**

7 *(a) MODIFICATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY AU-*
 8 *THORIZATIONS.—Section 801(a) of the Veterans Benefits,*
 9 *Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006*
 10 *(Public Law 109–461) is amended—*

11 *(1) in paragraph (1)—*

12 *(A) by striking “\$300,000,000” and insert-*
 13 *ing “\$625,000,000”; and*

14 *(B) by striking the second sentence; and*

15 *(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “\$98,000,000”*
 16 *and inserting “\$568,400,000”.*

17 *(b) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN*
 18 *MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS PRE-*
 19 *VIOUSLY AUTHORIZED IN CONNECTION WITH CAPITAL*
 20 *ASSET REALIGNMENT INITIATIVE.—*

21 *(1) CORRECTION OF PATIENT PRIVACY DEFICI-*
 22 *ENCIES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-*
 23 *FAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA.—*
 24 *Paragraph (5) of section 802 of the Veterans Benefits,*
 25 *Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006*

1 *(Public Law 109–461) is amended by striking*
 2 *“\$85,200,000” and inserting “\$136,700,000”.*

3 *(2) CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MEDICAL CENTER*
 4 *FACILITY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-*
 5 *FAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.—Para-*
 6 *graph (7) of such section is amended by striking*
 7 *“\$406,000,000” and inserting “\$600,400,000”.*

8 *(3) CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW OUTPATIENT CLIN-*
 9 *IC, LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.—Paragraph (8) of such*
 10 *section is amended—*

11 *(A) by striking “ambulatory” and all that*
 12 *follows through “purchase,” and inserting “out-*
 13 *patient clinic in”; and*

14 *(B) by striking “\$65,100,000” and inserting*
 15 *“\$131,800,000”.*

16 *(4) CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MEDICAL CENTER*
 17 *FACILITY, ORLANDO, FLORIDA.—Paragraph (11) of*
 18 *such section is amended by striking “\$377,700,000”*
 19 *and inserting “\$656,800,000”.*

20 *(5) CONSOLIDATION OF CAMPUSES AT THE UNI-*
 21 *VERSITY DRIVE AND H. JOHN HEINZ III DIVISIONS,*
 22 *PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA.—Paragraph (12) of*
 23 *such section is amended by striking “\$189,205,000”*
 24 *and inserting “\$295,600,000”.*

1 **SEC. 703. AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2009 MAJOR**
2 **MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.**

3 *The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the*
4 *following major medical facility leases in fiscal year 2009*
5 *at the locations specified, and in an amount for each lease*
6 *not to exceed the amount shown for such location:*

7 (1) *For an outpatient clinic, Brandon, Florida,*
8 *\$4,326,000.*

9 (2) *For an outpatient clinic, Colorado Springs,*
10 *Colorado, \$10,300,000.*

11 (3) *For an outpatient clinic, Eugene, Oregon,*
12 *\$5,826,000.*

13 (4) *For the expansion of an outpatient clinic,*
14 *Green Bay, Wisconsin, \$5,891,000.*

15 (5) *For an outpatient clinic, Greenville, South*
16 *Carolina, \$3,731,000.*

17 (6) *For an outpatient clinic, Mansfield, Ohio,*
18 *\$2,212,000.*

19 (7) *For an outpatient clinic, Mayaguez, Puerto*
20 *Rico, \$6,276,000.*

21 (8) *For an outpatient clinic, Mesa, Arizona,*
22 *\$5,106,000.*

23 (9) *For interim research space, Palo Alto, Cali-*
24 *fornia, \$8,636,000.*

25 (10) *For the expansion of an outpatient clinic,*
26 *Savannah, Georgia, \$3,168,000.*

1 (11) *For an outpatient clinic, Sun City, Ari-*
 2 *zona, \$2,295,000.*

3 (12) *For a primary care annex, Tampa, Florida,*
 4 *\$8,652,000.*

5 (13) *For an outpatient clinic, Peoria, Illinois,*
 6 *\$3,600,000.*

7 **SEC. 704. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 (a) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL*
 9 *YEAR 2009 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.—There*
 10 *is authorized to be appropriated for the Secretary of Vet-*
 11 *erans Affairs for fiscal year 2009 for the Construction,*
 12 *Major Projects, account—*

13 (1) *\$345,900,000 for the projects authorized in*
 14 *section 701; and*

15 (2) *\$1,493,495,000 for the increased amounts au-*
 16 *thorized for projects whose authorizations are modi-*
 17 *fied by section 702.*

18 (b) *AUTHORIZATION FOR APPROPRIATIONS FOR FIS-*
 19 *CAL YEAR 2009 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.—*
 20 *There is authorized to be appropriated for the Secretary of*
 21 *Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2009 for the Medical Facili-*
 22 *ties account, \$70,019,000, for the leases authorized in sec-*
 23 *tion 703.*

1 **SEC. 705. INCREASE IN THRESHOLD FOR MAJOR MEDICAL**
 2 **FACILITY LEASES REQUIRING CONGRES-**
 3 **SIONAL APPROVAL.**

4 *Section 8104(a)(3)(B) is amended by striking*
 5 *“\$600,000” and inserting “\$1,000,000”.*

6 **SEC. 706. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN NON-FEDERAL LAND**
 7 **BY CITY OF AURORA, COLORADO, TO SEC-**
 8 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR CON-**
 9 **STRUCTION OF VETERANS MEDICAL FACIL-**
 10 **ITY.**

11 *Section 410 of title IV of division I of the Consolidated*
 12 *Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110–161; 121 Stat.*
 13 *2276) is amended to read as follows:*

14 **“SEC. 410. CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN NON-FEDERAL LAND.**

15 *“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

16 *“(1) CITY.—The term ‘City’ means the City of*
 17 *Aurora, Colorado.*

18 *“(2) DEED.—The term ‘deed’ means the quit-*
 19 *claim deed—*

20 *“(A) conveyed to the City by the Secretary*
 21 *(acting through the Director of the National*
 22 *Park Service); and*

23 *“(B) dated May 24, 1999.*

24 *“(3) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term ‘non-Fed-*
 25 *eral land’ means—*

1 “(A) parcel I of the former United States
 2 Army Garrison Fitzsimons, Adams County, Col-
 3 orado, as more specifically described in the deed;
 4 and

5 “(B) the parcel of land described in the
 6 deed.

7 “(4) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
 8 the Secretary of the Interior.

9 “(b) DUTY OF SECRETARY.—To allow the City to con-
 10 vey by donation to the United States the non-Federal land
 11 to be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the con-
 12 struction of a veterans medical facility, not later than 60
 13 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Sec-
 14 retary shall execute each instrument that is necessary to
 15 release all rights, conditions, and restrictions retained by
 16 the United States in and to the non-Federal land conveyed
 17 in the deed.”.

18 **SEC. 707. REPORT ON FACILITIES ADMINISTRATION.**

19 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment
 20 of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit
 21 to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and
 22 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-
 23 resentatives a report on the progress of the Secretary in
 24 complying with section 312A of title 38, United States
 25 Code.

1 **SEC. 708. ANNUAL REPORT ON OUTPATIENT CLINICS.**

2 (a) *ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.*—Subchapter I of
3 chapter 81 is amended by adding at the end the following
4 new section:

5 **“§ 8119. Annual report on outpatient clinics**

6 “(a) *ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED.*—The Secretary
7 shall submit to the committees an annual report on commu-
8 nity-based outpatient clinics and other outpatient clinics
9 of the Department. The report shall be submitted each year
10 not later than the date on which the budget for the next
11 fiscal year is submitted to the Congress under section 1105
12 of title 31.

13 “(b) *CONTENTS OF REPORT.*—Each report required
14 under subsection (a) shall include the following:

15 “(1) *A list of each community-based outpatient*
16 *clinic and other outpatient clinic of the Department,*
17 *and for each such clinic, the type of clinic, location,*
18 *size, number of health professionals employed by the*
19 *clinic, workload, whether the clinic is leased or con-*
20 *structed and operated by the Secretary, and the an-*
21 *nual cost of operating the clinic.*

22 “(2) *A list of community-based outpatient clinics*
23 *and other outpatient clinics that the Secretary opened*
24 *during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year during*
25 *which the report is submitted and a list of clinics the*
26 *Secretary proposes opening during the fiscal year*

1 *during which the report is submitted and the subse-*
2 *quent fiscal year, together with the cost of activating*
3 *each such clinic and the information required to be*
4 *provided under paragraph (1) for each such clinic*
5 *and proposed clinic.*

6 “(3) *A list of proposed community-based out-*
7 *patient clinics and other outpatient clinics that are,*
8 *as of the date of the submission of the report, under*
9 *review by the National Review Panel and a list of*
10 *possible locations for future clinics identified in the*
11 *Department’s strategic planning process, including*
12 *any identified locations in rural and underserved*
13 *areas.*

14 “(4) *A prioritized list of sites of care identified*
15 *by the Secretary that the Secretary could establish*
16 *without carrying out construction or entering into a*
17 *lease, including—*

18 “(A) *any such sites that could be expanded*
19 *by hiring additional staff or allocating staff to*
20 *Federal facilities or facilities operating in col-*
21 *laboration with the Federal Government; and*

22 “(B) *any sites established, or able to be es-*
23 *tablished, under sections 8111 and 8153 of this*
24 *title.”.*

1 (b) *DEADLINE FOR FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.*—*The Sec-*
 2 *retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit the first report re-*
 3 *quired under section 8119(a) of title 38, United States*
 4 *Code, as added by subsection (a), by not later than 90 days*
 5 *after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

6 (c) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections at*
 7 *the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the*
 8 *end of the items relating to subchapter I the following new*
 9 *item:*

“8119. Annual report on outpatient clinics.”.

10 **SEC. 709. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

11 **SPINAL CORD INJURY CENTER, TAMPA, FLOR-**

12 **IDA.**

13 *The spinal cord injury center located at the James A.*
 14 *Haley Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in*
 15 *Tampa, Florida, shall after the date of the enactment of*
 16 *this Act be known and designated as the “Michael Bilirakis*
 17 *Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury Cen-*
 18 *ter”.* *Any reference to such center in any law, regulation,*
 19 *map, document, record, or other paper of the United States*
 20 *shall be considered to be a reference to the “Michael Bili-*
 21 *rakis Department of Veterans Affairs Spinal Cord Injury*
 22 *Center”.*

1 **TITLE VIII—EXTENSION OF**
 2 **CERTAIN AUTHORITIES**

3 **SEC. 801. REPEAL OF SUNSET ON INCLUSION OF NON-**
 4 **INSTITUTIONAL EXTENDED CARE SERVICES**
 5 **IN DEFINITION OF MEDICAL SERVICES.**

6 *Section 1701 is amended—*

7 *(1) by striking paragraph (10); and*

8 *(2) in paragraph (6)—*

9 *(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (E)*
 10 *and (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respec-*
 11 *tively; and*

12 *(B) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the*
 13 *following new subparagraph (E):*

14 *“(E) Noninstitutional extended care serv-*
 15 *ices, including alternatives to institutional ex-*
 16 *tended care that the Secretary may furnish di-*
 17 *rectly, by contract, or through provision of case*
 18 *management by another provider or payer.”.*

19 **SEC. 802. EXTENSION OF RECOVERY AUDIT AUTHORITY.**

20 *Section 1703(d)(4) is amended by striking “September*
 21 *30, 2008” and inserting “September 30, 2013”.*

1 **SEC. 803. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR PROVISION OF HOS-**
 2 **PITAL CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND NURS-**
 3 **ING HOME CARE TO VETERANS WHO PARTICI-**
 4 **PATED IN CERTAIN CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGI-**
 5 **CAL TESTING CONDUCTED BY THE DEPART-**
 6 **MENT OF DEFENSE.**

7 (a) *PERMANENT AUTHORITY.*—Subsection (e)(3) of
 8 section 1710 is amended—

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

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

13 (3) by striking subparagraph (D).

14 (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.*—Subsection (e)(1)(E)
 15 of such section is amended by striking “paragraphs (2) and
 16 (3)” and inserting “paragraph (2)”.

17 **SEC. 804. EXTENSION OF EXPIRING COLLECTIONS AU-**
 18 **THORITIES.**

19 (a) *HEALTH CARE COPAYMENTS.*—Section
 20 1710(f)(2)(B) is amended by striking “September 30, 2008”
 21 and inserting “September 30, 2010”.

22 (b) *MEDICAL CARE COST RECOVERY.*—Section
 23 1729(a)(2)(E) is amended by striking “October 1, 2008”
 24 and inserting “October 1, 2010”.

1 **SEC. 805. EXTENSION OF NURSING HOME CARE.**

2 Section 1710A(d) is amended by striking “December
3 31, 2008” and inserting “December 31, 2013”.

4 **SEC. 806. PERMANENT AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH RE-**
5 **SEARCH CORPORATIONS.**

6 (a) *REPEAL*.—Chapter 73 is amended by striking sec-
7 tion 7368.

8 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT*.—The table of sections at
9 the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the
10 item relating to section 7368.

11 **SEC. 807. EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT AN-**
12 **NUAL REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON CARE**
13 **OF SEVERELY CHRONICALLY MENTALLY ILL**
14 **VETERANS.**

15 Section 7321(d)(2) is amended by striking “through
16 2008” and inserting “through 2012”.

17 **SEC. 808. PERMANENT REQUIREMENT FOR BIENNIAL RE-**
18 **PORT ON WOMEN’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

19 Section 542(c)(1) is amended by striking “through
20 2008”.

21 **SEC. 809. EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM ON IMPROVE-**
22 **MENT OF CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE SERVICES.**

23 Section 214 of the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and
24 Information Technology Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-461;
25 38 U.S.C. 1710B note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “two-year period” and inserting “three-year period”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “fiscal years 2007 and 2008” and inserting “fiscal years 2007 through 2009”.

TITLE IX—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 901. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) *TITLE 38.—Title 38, United States Code, is amended—*

(1) in section 1712A—

(A) by striking subsection (g);

(B) by redesignating subsections (d) through (i) as subsections (c) through (f), respectively; and

(C) in subsection (f), as so redesignated, by striking “(including a Resource Center designated under subsection (h)(3)(A) of this section)”;

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

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

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

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

1 (5) *in the table of sections at the beginning of*
 2 *chapter 51, by striking the item relating to section*
 3 *5121 and inserting the following new item:*

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

4 (6) *in section 7458(b)(2), by striking “pro rated”*
 5 *and inserting “pro-rated”;*

6 (7) *in section 8117(a)(1), by striking “such*
 7 *such” and inserting “such”; and*

8 (8) *in each of sections 1708(d), 7314(f),*
 9 *7320(j)(2), 7325(i)(2), and 7328(i)(2), by striking*
 10 *“medical care account” and inserting “medical serv-*
 11 *ices account”.*

12 (b) *VETERANS BENEFITS, HEALTH CARE, AND INFOR-*
 13 *MATION TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 2006.—Section 807(e) of the*
 14 *Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Tech-*
 15 *nology Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–461) is amended by*
 16 *striking “Medical Care” each place it appears and inserting*
 17 *“Medical Facilities”.*

Attest:

Clerk.

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2162

AMENDMENT