

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3281

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out demonstration projects related to providing care for veterans in rural areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2009

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out demonstration projects related to providing care for veterans in rural areas.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS ON ALTER-**
4 **NATIVES FOR EXPANDING CARE FOR VET-**
5 **ERANS IN RURAL AREAS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
7 fairs, through the Director of the Office of Rural Health,
8 shall carry out demonstration projects to examine the fea-
9 sibility and advisability of alternatives for expanding care
10 for veterans in rural areas, including the following:

1 (1) Establishing a partnership between the De-
2 partment of Veterans Affairs and the Centers for
3 Medicare and Medicaid Services of the Department
4 of Health and Human Services to coordinate care
5 for veterans in rural areas at critical access hospitals
6 (as designated or certified under section 1820 of the
7 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-4)).

8 (2) Establishing a partnership between the De-
9 partment of Veterans Affairs and the Department of
10 Health and Human Services to coordinate care for
11 veterans in rural areas at community health centers.

12 (3) Expanding coordination between the De-
13 partment of Veterans Affairs and the Indian Health
14 Service to expand care for Indian veterans.

15 (b) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary of
16 Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the demonstration
17 projects carried out under subsection (a) are located at
18 facilities that are geographically distributed throughout
19 the United States.

20 (c) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
22 Affairs shall submit a report on the results of the dem-
23 onstration projects conducted under subsection (a) to—

24 (1) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the
25 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

1 (2) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the
2 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives.

4 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
5 are authorized to be appropriated \$350,000,000 for each
6 of fiscal years 2009 through 2011 to carry out this sec-
7 tion.

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