

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4006

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for Indian veterans health care coordinators, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 3, 2009

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for Indian veterans health care coordinators, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Rural, American In-
5 dian Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF CARE OF AMERICAN INDIAN**
7 **VETERANS.**

8 (a) INDIAN HEALTH COORDINATORS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73
2 of title 38, United States Code is amended by add-
3 ing at the end the following new section:

4 **“§ 7330B. Indian Veterans Health Care Coordinators**

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary shall assign
6 at each of the 10 Department Medical Centers that serve
7 communities with the greatest number of Indian veterans
8 per capita an official or employee of the Department to
9 act as the coordinator of health care for Indian veterans
10 at such Medical Center. The official or employee so as-
11 signed at a Department Medical Center shall be known
12 as the ‘Indian Veterans Health Care Coordinator’ for the
13 Medical Center.

14 “(2) The Secretary shall, from time to time—

15 “(A) survey the Department Medical Centers
16 for purposes of identifying the 10 Department Med-
17 ical Centers that currently serve communities with
18 the greatest number of Indian veterans per capita;
19 and

20 “(B) utilizing the results of the most recent
21 survey conducted under subparagraph (A), revise the
22 assignment of Indian Veterans Health Care Coordi-
23 nators in order to assure the assignment of such co-
24 ordinators to appropriate Department Medical Cen-
25 ters as required by paragraph (1).

1 “(b) DUTIES.—The duties of a Indian Veterans
2 Health Care Coordinator shall include the following:

3 “(1) Improving outreach to tribal communities.

4 “(2) Coordinating the medical needs of Indian
5 veterans on Indian reservations with the Veterans
6 Health Administration and the Indian Health Serv-
7 ice.

8 “(3) Expanding the access and participation of
9 Department of Veterans Affairs, Indian Health
10 Service, and tribal members in the Department of
11 Veterans Affairs Tribal Veterans Representative pro-
12 gram.

13 “(4) Acting as an ombudsman for Indian vet-
14 erans enrolled in the health care system of the Vet-
15 erans Health Administration.

16 “(5) Advocating for the incorporation of tradi-
17 tional medicine and healing in Department treat-
18 ment plans for Indian veterans in need of care and
19 services provided by the Department.

20 “(c) INDIAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘In-
21 dian’ has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the
22 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act
23 (25 U.S.C. 450b).”.

24 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
25 tions at the beginning of chapter 73 of such title is

1 further by inserting after the item relating to section
2 7330A the following new item:

“7330B. Indian Veterans Health Coordinators.”.

3 (b) INTEGRATION OF ELECTRONIC HEALTH
4 RECORDS WITH INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.—Not later
5 than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
6 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Secretary of the In-
7 terior shall enter into a memorandum of understanding
8 to ensure that the health records of Indian veterans may
9 be transferred electronically between facilities of the In-
10 dian Health Service and the Department of Veterans Af-
11 fairs.

12 (c) TRANSFER OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO THE IN-
13 DIAN HEALTH SERVICE.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
15 Affairs may transfer to the Indian Health Service
16 such surplus Department of Veterans Affairs med-
17 ical and information technology equipment as the
18 Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of
19 Health and Human Services jointly consider appro-
20 priate for purposes of the Indian Health Service.

21 (2) TRANSPORTATION AND INSTALLATION.—In
22 transferring medical or information technology
23 equipment under this subsection, the Secretary of
24 Veterans Affairs may transport and install such
25 equipment in facilities of the Indian Health Service.

1 (d) REPORT ON JOINT HEALTH CLINICS WITH IN-
2 DIAN HEALTH SERVICE.—Not later than one year after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
4 Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Health and Human
5 Services shall jointly submit to Congress a report on the
6 feasability and advisability of the joint establishment and
7 operation by the Veterans Health Administration and the
8 Indian Health Service of health clinics on Indian reserva-
9 tions to serve the populations of such reservations, includ-
10 ing Indian veterans.

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