

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6339

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to assist military medics and corpsmen in making transitions to civilian physician assistant jobs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

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

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to assist military medics and corpsmen in making transitions to civilian physician assistant jobs.

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 “Veteran Medic Corps-  
5 men Physician Assistant Demonstration Program Act of  
6 2010”.

1 **SEC. 2. PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT MILITARY PATHWAYS PRO-**  
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
4 propriations provided for such purpose, the Secretary of  
5 Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Secretary of  
6 Labor, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of  
7 Health and Human Services, shall establish a program in  
8 accordance with this section to examine methods of ena-  
9 bling eligible individuals to build on medical skills gained  
10 through military jobs by entering into the physician assist-  
11 ant workforce to meet the demand for physician assist-  
12 ants.

13 (b) STUDY.—In carrying out the program, the Sec-  
14 retary shall conduct a study that includes examination of  
15 the following:

16 (1) Whether the demonstration projects carried  
17 out under subsection (c) are effective in improving  
18 the ability of eligible individuals to become licensed  
19 physician assistants, and what modifications to the  
20 demonstration projects are necessary to meet that  
21 goal.

22 (2) Ways of bringing the demonstration  
23 projects carried out under subsection (c) to the at-  
24 tention of eligible individuals, including through in-  
25 formation provided to eligible individuals by—

1 (A) the Department of Defense transition  
2 program known as the Transition Assistance  
3 Program, carried out under section 1144 of  
4 title 10, United States Code; and

5 (B) the Department of Labor veterans  
6 transition program carried out under chapter  
7 41 of title 38, United States Code.

8 (3) Whether eligible individuals participating in  
9 a demonstration project carried out under subsection  
10 (c) are receiving the educational support services  
11 they need in order to complete their physician assist-  
12 ant education and obtain certification, and what fur-  
13 ther steps the Secretary should take in order to en-  
14 sure that those eligible individuals have access to  
15 such support services.

16 (4) Whether the program established under this  
17 section could serve as a model for new programs to  
18 assist eligible individuals in obtaining certification in  
19 other health care fields.

20 (c) GRANTS FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
22 grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to  
23 carry out demonstration programs in accordance  
24 with this subsection.

25 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—

1           (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity re-  
2           ceiving a grant under this subsection shall use  
3           funds from such grant to establish a dem-  
4           onstration program that enables eligible individ-  
5           uals to receive academic credit from an accred-  
6           ited physician assistant program based on the  
7           military credentials and medical skills experi-  
8           ence of the eligible individual.

9           (B) PRIORITY ADMISSION.—In admitting  
10          eligible individuals into a demonstration pro-  
11          gram carried out with funds received under this  
12          subsection, an eligible entity shall give priority  
13          to eligible individuals who serve or have served  
14          as a paramedic or other similar medical support  
15          position in the Armed Forces.

16          (C) EXAMINATION ELIGIBILITY REQUIRE-  
17          MENT.—An eligible entity shall ensure that an  
18          eligible individual participating in a demonstra-  
19          tion program carried out with funds received  
20          under this section is eligible to take the Physi-  
21          cian Assistant National Certifying Exam ad-  
22          ministered by the National Commission on Cer-  
23          tification of Physician Assistants upon comple-  
24          tion of the program.

1           (3) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a  
2 grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall  
3 submit an application to the Secretary at such time,  
4 in such manner, and containing such information as  
5 the Secretary may require, including—

6           (A) information demonstrating—

7                 (i) the capability of the eligible entity  
8 to work with eligible individuals;

9                 (ii) a history of effective collaboration  
10 between the eligible entity and—

11                         (I) health care employers; and

12                         (II) State medical licensing  
13 boards, as appropriate; and

14           (B) an assurance that the eligible entity  
15 will participate in any evaluations by the Sec-  
16 retary of the demonstration program carried  
17 out with funds received under this subsection,  
18 including participating in reporting as required  
19 by the Secretary.

20           (4) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall  
21 establish selection criteria for eligible entities con-  
22 sistent with this subsection, and shall ensure that  
23 the criteria give priority to eligible entities showing  
24 the ability to sustain a demonstration program de-

1       veloped under this subsection after the expiration of  
2       the grant period.

3       (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall  
4       provide technical assistance to eligible entities receiving  
5       grants under this subsection.

6       (e) REPORT.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
8       after the date of enactment of this Act, and each  
9       year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the ap-  
10      propriate committees of Congress and Federal agen-  
11      cies a report on the findings and outcomes of the  
12      program carried out under this section.

13          (2) CONTENTS.—The Secretary shall include in  
14      each report submitted under this subsection—

15           (A) the results of the study conducted  
16      under subsection (b); and

17           (B) information pertaining to each eligible  
18      entity receiving a grant under subsection (c) re-  
19      garding the number of eligible individuals re-  
20      ferred to, accepted into, and graduating from,  
21      the demonstration program carried out by the  
22      eligible entity.

23          (3) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall dis-  
24      tribute a report submitted under this subsection to

1 veterans' service organizations and State medical  
2 licencing boards.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

5 (1) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term “eligible  
6 individual” means an individual with medical or  
7 health professional experience gained while serving  
8 in the Armed Forces who—

9 (A) has received a certificate, associate de-  
10 gree, baccalaureate degree, master's degree, or  
11 post-baccalaureate training in a science relating  
12 to health care;

13 (B) has participated in the delivery of  
14 health care services or related medical services,  
15 including participation in military training re-  
16 lating to the identification, evaluation, treat-  
17 ment, and prevention of disease and disorders;  
18 and

19 (C) does not have—

20 (i) a degree of doctor of medicine;

21 (ii) a degree of doctor of osteopathy;

22 or

23 (iii) a degree of doctor of dentistry.

24 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
25 ty” means an institution of higher education with a

1 physician assistant program that is accredited by the  
2 Accreditation Review Commission on Education for  
3 the Physician Assistant.

4 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
6 this Act \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through  
7 2016.

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