

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2894

To expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2015

Ms. ESTY (for herself and Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Caregivers Access and
5 Responsible Expansion for All Veterans Act” or the
6 “CARE for All Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN**
2 **FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM OF DEPART-**
3 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection
5 (a)(2)(B) of section 1720G of title 38, United States
6 Code, is amended by inserting before the semicolon the
7 following: “, or, in accordance with paragraph (11), has
8 such an injury or illness that was so incurred or aggra-
9 vated before such date”.

10 (b) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR ILLNESS.—
11 Such subsection is further amended by inserting “or ill-
12 ness” after “serious injury”.

13 (c) EXPANSION OF NEEDED SERVICES IN ELIGI-
14 BILITY CRITERIA.—Subsection (a)(2)(C) of such section
15 is amended—

16 (1) in clause (ii), by striking “; or” and insert-
17 ing a semicolon;

18 (2) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv);
19 and

20 (3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following
21 new clause (iii):

22 “(iii) a need for regular or extensive in-
23 struction or supervision in completing two or
24 more instrumental activities of daily living; or”.

1 (d) ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (a)
2 of such section is amended by adding at the end the fol-
3 lowing new paragraph:

4 “(11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
5 subsection, a family caregiver of an eligible veteran who
6 is eligible under paragraph (2) solely because of a serious
7 injury or illness (including traumatic brain injury, psycho-
8 logical trauma, or other mental disorder) incurred or ag-
9 gravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval,
10 or air service before September 11, 2001, is eligible for
11 assistance under this subsection as follows:

12 “(A) Not earlier than October 1, 2017, if the
13 family caregiver would merit a monthly personal
14 caregiver stipend under paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(V) in
15 an amount that is in the highest tier specified in the
16 schedule established by the Secretary under para-
17 graph (3)(C)(i).

18 “(B) Not earlier than October 1, 2019, if the
19 family caregiver would merit such a stipend in an
20 amount that is in the middle tier specified in such
21 schedule.

22 “(C) Not earlier than October 1, 2021, if the
23 family caregiver would merit such a stipend in an

- 1 amount that is in the lowest tier specified in such
- 2 schedule.”.

○