

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1319

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a continuing medical education program for non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical professionals who treat veterans to increase knowledge and recognition of medical conditions common to veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2017

Mr. BROWN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a continuing medical education program for non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical professionals who treat veterans to increase knowledge and recognition of medical conditions common to veterans, 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 “Community Care Core
5 Competency Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CONTINUING**
2 **EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN NON-**
3 **DEPARTMENT MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
6 Affairs shall establish a program to provide con-
7 tinuing medical education material to non-Depart-
8 ment medical professionals with the goal of—

9 (A) increasing knowledge and recognition
10 of medical conditions common to veterans; and

11 (B) improving outreach to veterans and
12 family members of veterans.

13 (2) EDUCATION PROVIDED.—The program shall
14 include education on the following:

15 (A) Dealing with patients who are veterans
16 or family members of veterans.

17 (B) Identifying and treating common men-
18 tal and physical conditions of veterans and fam-
19 ily members of veterans.

20 (C) The health care system of the Depart-
21 ment of Veterans Affairs.

22 (D) Such other matters as the Secretary
23 considers appropriate.

24 (b) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The program shall be
25 carried out during the five-year period beginning on the
26 date of the enactment of this Act.

1 (c) MATERIAL PROVIDED.—The continuing medical
2 education material provided to non-Department medical
3 professionals under the program shall be the same mate-
4 rial provided to medical professionals of the Department
5 to ensure that all medical professionals treating veterans
6 have access to the same materials, which supports core
7 competencies throughout the community.

8 (d) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall admin-
10 ister the program to participating non-Department
11 medical professionals through an Internet website of
12 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

13 (2) CURRICULUM AND CREDIT PROVIDED.—The
14 Secretary shall determine the curriculum of the pro-
15 gram and the number of hours of credit to provide
16 to participating non-Department medical profes-
17 sionals for continuing medical education.

18 (3) ACCREDITATION.—The Secretary shall en-
19 sure that the program is accredited in as many
20 States as practicable.

21 (4) CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING RULES.—The
22 Secretary shall ensure that the program is consistent
23 with the rules and regulations of the following:

24 (A) The medical licensing agency of each
25 State in which the program is accredited.

1 (B) Such medical credentialing organiza-
2 tions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

3 (5) USER COST.—The Secretary shall carry out
4 the program at no cost to participating non-Depart-
5 ment medical professionals.

6 (e) NON-DEPARTMENT MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL DE-
7 FINED.—In this section, the term “non-Department med-
8 ical professional” means any individual who is licensed by
9 an appropriate medical authority in the United States and
10 in good standing, is not an employee of the Department
11 of Veterans Affairs, and provides care to veterans or fam-
12 ily members of veterans under the laws administered by
13 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

○