

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2997

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that certain veterans receive in-patient psychiatric care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2019

Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself, Mr. STIVERS, Mrs. BUSTOS, Ms. FINKENAUER, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. VELA, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. GABBARD, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. SOTO, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. COOPER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. RYAN, Mr. KATKO, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. COX of California, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. GALLEGRO, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. OLSON, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. VEASEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that certain veterans receive in-patient psychiatric care provided by 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 “Sgt. Brandon Ketchum
5 Never Again Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROVISION OF IN-PATIENT PSYCHIATRIC CARE FOR**
2 **VETERANS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1720I
5 the following new section:

6 **“§ 1720J. Provision of in-patient psychiatric care**

7 “(a) REQUIREMENT TO FURNISH CARE.—Except as
8 provided by subsection (b), upon the request of a covered
9 veteran, the Secretary shall furnish, or continue to fur-
10 nish, to the covered veteran in-patient psychiatric care at
11 the facility of the Department that—

12 “(1) is closest to where the veteran resides; and
13 “(2) has the capacity and capability to provide
14 such care.

15 “(b) NON-DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.—(1) If the
16 Secretary determines, on a case-by-case basis, that a facil-
17 ity of the Department does not have the capability or ca-
18 pacity to furnish in-patient psychiatric care to a covered
19 veteran pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall
20 furnish such care to such veteran at a non-Department
21 facility.

22 “(2) The Secretary shall determine the rates of pay-
23 ment for a non-Department facility that furnishes in-pa-
24 tient psychiatric care pursuant to paragraph (1) in accord-
25 ance with the rates paid by the United States under sec-
26 tion 1703(i) of this title.

1 “(c) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
2 the term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who is—

3 “(1) enrolled in the health care system estab-
4 lished under section 1705(a) of this title; and

5 “(2) entitled to in-patient psychiatric care fur-
6 nished by the Secretary under this chapter.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
8 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
9 after the item relating to section 1720I the following new
10 item:

“1720J. Provision of in-patient psychiatric care.”.

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