H. R. 344

To require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services for certain covered beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2019

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself and Mr. LOEBSACK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services for certain covered beneficiaries as part of the TRICARE program.

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 “Chiropractic Health
5 Parity for Military Beneficiaries Act”.
SEC. 2. CHIROPRACTIC HEALTH CARE SERVICES FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR CERTAIN
COVERED BENEFICIARIES.

(a) Plan Required.—Not later than 30 days after
the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
Defense shall complete development of a plan to provide
chiropractic health care services and benefits for eligible
covered beneficiaries as a permanent part of the TRI-
CARE program.

(b) Contents of Plan.—The plan developed under
subsection (a) shall require that a contract entered into
under section 1097 of title 10, United States Code, for
the delivery of health care services shall—

(1) include the delivery of chiropractic services
to eligible covered beneficiaries;

(2) require that chiropractic services may be
provided only by a doctor of chiropractic; and

(3) provide that an eligible covered beneficiary
may select and have direct access to a doctor of
chiropractic without referral by another health practi-
tioner.

(c) Implementation of Plan.—The plan developed
under subsection (a) shall provide for implementation of
the plan to begin not later than 60 days after the date
on which the plan is completed.

(d) Definitions.—In this section:
(1) The term “chiropractic services”—

   (A) includes diagnosis (including by diagnostic x-ray tests), evaluation and management, and therapeutic services for the treatment of a patient’s health condition, including neuromusculoskeletal conditions and the subluxation complex, and such other services determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense and as authorized under State law; and

   (B) does not include the use of drugs or surgery.

(2) The term “covered beneficiary” has the meaning given that term in section 1072(5) of title 10, United States Code.

(3) The term “eligible covered beneficiary” means a covered beneficiary excluding a dependent of a member or former member of a uniformed service.

(4) The term “dependent” has the meaning given that term in section 1072(2) of title 10, United States Code.

(5) The term “doctor of chiropractic” means only a doctor of chiropractic who is licensed as a doctor of chiropractic, chiropractic physician, or chi-
ropraetor by a State, the District of Columbia, or a
territory or possession of the United States.

(6) The term “TRICARE program” has the
meaning given that term in section 1072(7) of title
10, United States Code.