

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1573

To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medicines relating to preventive health services, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2019

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medicines relating to preventive health services, 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 “Veterans Preventive
5 Health Coverage Fairness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT TO PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES**
2 **FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
3 **AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) **ELIMINATION OF MEDICATION COPAYMENTS.—**
5 Section 1722A(a)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is
6 amended—

- 7 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or”;
- 8 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
9 at the end and inserting “; or”; and
- 10 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
11 paragraph:

12 “(E) to medication that is or is part of a pre-
13 ventive health service.”.

14 (b) **ELIMINATION OF HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL**
15 **SERVICES COPAYMENTS.—**Section 1710 of such title is
16 amended—

- 17 (1) in subsection (f)—
- 18 (A) by redesignating paragraph (5) as
19 paragraph (6); and
- 20 (B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the
21 following new paragraph (5):

22 “(5) A veteran shall not be liable to the United States
23 under this subsection for any amounts for preventive
24 health services.”; and

- 25 (2) in subsection (g)(3), by adding at the end
26 the following new subparagraph:

1 “(C) Preventive health services.”.

2 (c) DEFINITION.—Section 1701(9) of such title is
3 amended—

4 (1) in subparagraph (K), by striking “; and”
5 and inserting a semicolon;

6 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (L) as sub-
7 paragraph (O); and

8 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (K) the fol-
9 lowing new subparagraphs:

10 “(L) evidence-based items or services that
11 have in effect a rating of ‘A’ or ‘B’ in the cur-
12 rent recommendations of the United States Pre-
13 ventive Services Task Force;

14 “(M) immunizations that have in effect a
15 recommendation from the Advisory Committee
16 on Immunization Practices of the Centers for
17 Disease Control and Prevention with respect to
18 the individual involved;

19 “(N) with respect to services for women,
20 the preventive care and screenings provided for
21 in the Health Resources and Services Adminis-
22 tration Preventive Services Guidelines in effect
23 as of January 1, 2017; and”.

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