

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHIROPRACTIC HEALTH CARE SERVICES FROM THE**
2 **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR CERTAIN**
3 **COVERED BENEFICIARIES.**

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

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

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

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

18 (3) provide that an eligible covered beneficiary
19 may select and have direct access to a doctor of
20 chiropractic without referral by another health prac-
21 titioner.

22 (c) IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN.—The plan developed
23 under subsection (a) shall provide for implementation of
24 the plan to begin not later than 60 days after the date
25 on which the plan is completed.

26 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) The term “chiropractic services”—

2 (A) includes diagnosis (including by diag-
3 nostic x-ray tests), evaluation and management,
4 and therapeutic services for the treatment of a
5 patient’s health condition, including neuromus-
6 culoskeletal conditions and the subluxation com-
7 plex, and such other services determined appro-
8 priate by the Secretary of Defense and as au-
9 thorized under State law; and

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

12 (2) The term “covered beneficiary” has the
13 meaning given that term in section 1072(5) of title
14 10, United States Code.

15 (3) The term “eligible covered beneficiary”
16 means a covered beneficiary excluding a dependent
17 of a member or former member of a uniformed serv-
18 ice.

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

22 (5) The term “doctor of chiropractic” means
23 only a doctor of chiropractic who is licensed as a
24 doctor of chiropractic, chiropractic physician, or chi-

1 ropractor by a State, the District of Columbia, or a
2 territory or possession of the United States.

3 (6) The term “TRICARE program” has the
4 meaning given that term in section 1072(7) of title
5 10, United States Code.

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