

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4048

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of traumatic brain injury care in rural areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 6, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MASSA, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SESSIONS, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of traumatic brain injury care in rural areas.

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. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT**
4 **PROGRAM ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**
5 **CARE IN RURAL AREAS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs shall carry out a pilot program in five rural States
8 selected by the Secretary, in consultation with the Office
9 of Rural Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 In each of the five States selected, the Secretary shall as-
2 sign a specific Department of Veterans Affairs case man-
3 ager to each individual diagnosed with traumatic brain in-
4 jury who is receiving care in a medical facility of the De-
5 partment of Veterans Affairs in a selected State. In car-
6 rying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

7 (1) provide training at Department of Veterans
8 Affairs medical facilities located in the selected
9 States for Department of Veterans Affairs case
10 managers who are assigned to individuals diagnosed
11 with traumatic brain injury;

12 (2) coordinate with non-Department medical fa-
13 cilities located in the selected States to provide for
14 such training, as appropriate;

15 (3) determine an appropriate ratio of traumatic
16 brain injury patients to each case manager to ensure
17 the patients receive proper and efficient treatment;

18 (4) for any area in a selected State in which no
19 Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility is
20 easily accessible, seek to enter into a contract with
21 a private health care provider located in that area
22 under which the Secretary shall reimburse the pro-
23 vider for providing health care to traumatic brain in-
24 jury patients residing in that area; and

1 (5) provide updated information on the treat-
2 ment of traumatic brain injuries to private health
3 care providers that have entered into contracts with
4 the Secretary under paragraph (4).

5 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
6 shall submit to Congress an annual report on the pilot
7 program under this section.

8 (c) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a
9 pilot program under this section shall terminate on the
10 date that is five years after the date of the enactment of
11 this Act.

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