

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4096

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require an annual report on veteran access to gender specific services under community care contracts, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2019

Mr. CORREA (for himself, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. WILD, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PETERSON, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. CÁRDENAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require an annual report on veteran access to gender specific services under community care contracts, 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 “Improving Oversight
5 of Women Veterans’ Care Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORT ON VETERAN ACCESS TO GENDER**
2 **SPECIFIC SERVICES UNDER DEPARTMENT OF**
3 **VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMUNITY CARE CON-**
4 **TRACTS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 17 of
6 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
7 end the following new section:

8 **“§ 1730D. Annual report on veteran access to gender**
9 **specific services under community care**
10 **contracts**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit to
12 the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and
13 the House of Representatives an annual report on the ac-
14 cess of women veterans to gender specific services under
15 contracts, agreements, or other arrangements with non-
16 Department medical providers entered into by the Sec-
17 retary for the provision of hospital care or medical services
18 to veterans. Such report shall include data and perform-
19 ance measures for the availability of gender specific serv-
20 ices, including—

21 “(1) the average wait time between the vet-
22 eran’s preferred appointment date and the date on
23 which the appointment is completed;

24 “(2) the average driving time required for vet-
25 erans to attend appointments; and

1 “(3) reasons why appointments could not be
2 scheduled with non-Department medical providers.

3 “(b) GENDER SPECIFIC SERVICES.—In this section,
4 the term ‘gender specific services’ means mammography,
5 obstetric care, gynecological care, and such other services
6 as the Secretary determines appropriate.”.

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 1730C the following new
10 item:

 “1730D. Annual report on veteran access to gender specific services under com-
 munity care contracts.”.

11 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENT OF CARE**
12 **STANDARDS AND INSPECTIONS AT DEPART-**
13 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CEN-**
14 **TERS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
16 shall establish a policy under which—

17 (1) the environment of care standards and in-
18 spections at Department of Veterans Affairs medical
19 centers include—

20 (A) an alignment of the requirements for
21 such standards and inspections with the wom-
22 en’s health handbook of the Veterans Health
23 Administration;

1 (B) a requirement for the frequency of
2 such inspections;

3 (C) delineation of the roles and responsibil-
4 ities of staff at the medical center who are re-
5 sponsible for compliance; and

6 (D) the requirement that each medical cen-
7 ter submit to the Secretary a report on the
8 compliance of the medical center with the
9 standards; and

10 (2) for the purposes of the End of Year Hos-
11 pital Star Rating, no medical center is eligible for a
12 five star rating as reported under the Strategic Ana-
13 lytics for Improvement and Learning Value Model
14 unless it meets the environment of care standards.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
17 to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
18 House of Representatives certification in writing that the
19 policy required by subsection (a) has been finalized and
20 disseminated to Department all medical centers.

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