

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5555

To make certain improvements in the provision of medical care by the
Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2020

Mr. HUDSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To make certain improvements in the provision of medical
care by the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “Care Veterans Deserve
5 Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN VETERANS WITH SERV-**
2 **ICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES TO RECEIVE**
3 **NON-DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
4 **MEDICAL CARE UNDER VETERANS COMMU-**
5 **NITY CARE PROGRAM.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (1) of subsection (d)
7 of section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, as amend-
8 ed by section 101 of the Caring for Our Veterans Act of
9 2018 (Public Law 115–182) is amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or” at
11 the end;

12 (2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period
13 and inserting “; or”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 paragraph:

16 “(F) the covered veteran has a service-con-
17 nected disability rated at 50 percent or higher
18 and elects to receive care or services through a
19 non-Department provider.”.

20 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
21 subsection (a) shall apply as if originally enacted in the
22 Caring for Our Veterans Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–
23 182).

1 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF OPERATING HOURS FOR PHAR-**
2 **MACIES AND MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE**
3 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) **EXTENSION OF OPERATING HOURS FOR PHAR-**
5 **MACIES.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall extend
6 the operating hours for each pharmacy of the Department
7 of Veterans Affairs during which the pharmacy offers
8 services comparable to retail pharmacies to include—

9 (1) operation on Saturday, Sunday, and Fed-
10 eral holidays; and

11 (2) operation until 8:00 p.m. on weekdays that
12 are not Federal holidays.

13 (b) **CONTRACTS WITH PROVIDERS DURING NIGHTS**
14 **AND WEEKENDS.**—The Secretary shall enter into con-
15 tracts, including through locum tenens arrangements, with
16 physicians and nurses that meet qualifications set forth
17 by the Secretary for purposes of this section under which
18 such physicians and nurses work at medical facilities of
19 the Department during nights and weekends.

20 (c) **SUPPORT STAFF.**—The Secretary may obtain ad-
21 ditional support staff as necessary to carry out this sec-
22 tion, including by hiring employees or contracting for serv-
23 ices.

1 **SEC. 4. CONDUCT OF BEST-PRACTICES PEER REVIEW OF**
2 **EACH MEDICAL CENTER OF THE DEPART-**
3 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
5 may provide for the conduct by a nongovernmental hos-
6 pital organization of a best-practices peer review of each
7 medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs to
8 evaluate the efficacy of health care delivered at each such
9 medical center.

10 (b) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority for
11 peer review conducted under subsection (a) to the medical
12 centers of the Department with the longest wait times for
13 an appointment or the worst health outcomes, as deter-
14 mined by the Secretary.

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