

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1951

To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand entitlement of veterans to care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and to guarantee health care benefits for veterans enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 13, 2023

Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. WELCH) 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 expand entitlement of veterans to care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and to guarantee health care benefits for veterans enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department, 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 “Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs Income Eligibility Standardization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF ENTITLEMENT OF VETERANS TO**
2 **CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
3 **FAIRS.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 1710(a) of title 38,
5 United States Code, is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3)—

7 (A) by striking “may, to the extent re-
8 sources and facilities are available and” and in-
9 serting a comma; and

10 (B) by striking “furnish hospital care,
11 medical services, and nursing home care” and
12 inserting “shall furnish hospital care and med-
13 ical services, and may furnish nursing home
14 care”; and

15 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “paragraphs
16 (1) and (2)” and inserting “paragraphs (1), (2), and
17 (3)”.

18 (b) **PRIORITY.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
19 shall eliminate all subcategories of priority for enrollment
20 established by the Secretary for veterans eligible for en-
21 rollment under paragraph (8) of section 1705(a) of title
22 38, United States Code, and shall ensure that all veterans
23 eligible for enrollment under such paragraph may enroll
24 in the patient enrollment system of the Department of
25 Veterans Affairs under such section.

1 **SEC. 3. GUARANTEE OF HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR VET-**
2 **ERANS ENROLLED IN PATIENT ENROLLMENT**
3 **SYSTEM OF DEPARTMENT.**

4 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that
5 all veterans, once enrolled in the patient enrollment system
6 of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section
7 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, remain enrolled
8 in such system and may continue receiving health care fur-
9 nished by the Department if they choose, subject to such
10 cost-sharing requirements as may apply to the veteran
11 under existing provisions of law.

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