

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1512

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the establishment in the Department of Veterans Affairs of mental illness research, education, and clinical centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 30 (legislative date, SEPTEMBER 27), 1993

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, and Mr. CAMPBELL) 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 require the establishment in the Department of Veterans Affairs of mental illness research, education, and clinical centers, 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. MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND**
4 **CLINICAL CENTERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of
6 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
7 end the following:

1 **“§ 7319. Mental illness research, education, and clinical**
2 **centers**

3 “(a) The purpose of this section is to improve the
4 provision of health-care services to eligible veterans suffer-
5 ing from mental illness, especially mental illness related
6 to service-related conditions, through research, the edu-
7 cation and training of health personnel, and the develop-
8 ment of improved models for furnishing clinical services.

9 “(b)(1) In order to carry out the purpose of this sec-
10 tion, the Secretary, upon the recommendation of the
11 Under Secretary for Health and pursuant to the provi-
12 sions of this subsection, shall—

13 “(A) designate not more than five health-care
14 facilities of the Department as the locations for a
15 center of mental illness research, education and
16 training, and clinical activities; and

17 “(B) subject to the appropriation of funds for
18 such purpose, establish and operate such centers at
19 such locations in accordance with this section.

20 “(2) The Secretary shall designate at least one facil-
21 ity under paragraph (1) not later than January 1, 1994.

22 “(3) The Secretary, upon the recommendation of the
23 Under Secretary for Health, shall ensure that the facilities
24 designated for centers under paragraph (1) are located in
25 various geographic regions.

1 “(4) The Secretary may not designate any health-
2 care facility as a location for a center under paragraph
3 (1) unless the Secretary, upon the recommendation of the
4 Under Secretary for Health, determines that the facility
5 has developed (or may reasonably be anticipated to de-
6 velop)—

7 “(A) an arrangement with an accredited medi-
8 cal school which provides education and training in
9 psychiatry and with which the facility is affiliated
10 under which arrangement residents receive education
11 and training in psychiatry through regular rotation
12 through the facility so as to provide such residents
13 with training in the diagnosis and treatment of men-
14 tal illness;

15 “(B) an arrangement with an accredited grad-
16 uate school of psychology which provides education
17 and training in clinical or counseling psychology, or
18 both, and with which the facility is affiliated under
19 which arrangement students receive education and
20 training in clinical or counseling psychology, or both,
21 through regular rotation through the facility so as to
22 provide such students with training in the diagnosis
23 and treatment of mental illness;

24 “(C) an arrangement under which nursing, so-
25 cial work, or other allied health personnel receive

1 training and education in mental health care
2 through regular rotation through the facility;

3 “(D) the ability to attract scientists who have
4 demonstrated creativity and achievement in research
5 into the causes, treatment, and prevention of mental
6 illness and into models for furnishing care and treat-
7 ment to veterans suffering from mental illness;

8 “(E) a policymaking advisory committee com-
9 posed of appropriate mental health-care and re-
10 search personnel of the facility and of the affiliated
11 school or schools to advise the directors of the facil-
12 ity and the center on policy matters pertaining to
13 the activities of the center during the period of the
14 operation of the center; and

15 “(F) the capability to conduct effectively eval-
16 uations of the activities of the center.

17 “(c) Clinical and scientific investigation activities at
18 each center may compete for the award of funding from
19 amounts appropriated for the Department of Veterans Af-
20 fairs medical and prosthetics research account and shall
21 receive priority in the award of funding from such account
22 insofar as funds are awarded to projects and activities re-
23 lating mental illness.

24 “(d) The Under Secretary for Health shall ensure
25 that research activities carried out through centers estab-

1 lished under subsection (b)(1) include an appropriate em-
2 phasis on the psychosocial dimension of mental illness and
3 on proposals of means of furnishing care and treatment
4 to veterans suffering from mental illness.

5 “(e) The Under Secretary for Health shall ensure
6 that useful information produced by the research, edu-
7 cation and training, and clinical activities of the centers
8 established under subsection (b)(1) is disseminated
9 throughout the Veterans Health Administration through
10 the development of programs of continuing medical and
11 related education provided through regional medical edu-
12 cation centers under subchapter VI of chapter 74 of this
13 title and through other means.

14 “(f) The official within the Central Office of the Vet-
15 erans Health Administration responsible for mental health
16 and behavioral sciences matters shall be responsible for
17 supervising the operation of the centers established pursu-
18 ant to subsection (b)(1).

19 “(g)(1) There are authorized to be appropriated for
20 the Department of Veterans Affairs for the basic support
21 of the research and education and training activities of
22 the centers established pursuant to subsection (b)(1) the
23 following:

24 “(A) \$3,125,000 for fiscal year 1994.

1 “(B) \$6,250,000 for each of fiscal years 1995
2 through 1997.

3 “(2) In addition to the funds available under the au-
4 thorization of appropriations in paragraph (1), the Under
5 Secretary for Health shall allocate to such centers from
6 other funds appropriated generally for the Department of
7 Veterans Affairs medical care account and the Depart-
8 ment of Veterans Affairs medical and prosthetics research
9 account such amounts as the Under Secretary for Health
10 determines appropriate in order to carry out the purposes
11 of this section.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
13 at the beginning of chapter 73 of such title is amended
14 by adding at the end of the matter relating to subchapter
15 II the following:

 “7319. Mental illness research, education, and clinical centers.”.

16 (c) REPORTS.—Not later than February 1 of each of
17 1995, 1996, and 1997, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
18 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of
19 the Senate and House of Representatives a report on the
20 status and activities during the previous fiscal year of the
21 mental illness, research, education, and clinical centers es-
22 tablished pursuant to section 7319 of title 38, United
23 States Code (as added by subsection (a)). Each such re-
24 port shall contain the following:

25 (1) A description of—

1 (A) the activities carried out at each center
2 and the funding provided for such activities;

3 (B) the advances made at each center in
4 research, education and training, and clinical
5 activities relating to mental illness in veterans;
6 and

7 (C) the actions taken by the Under Sec-
8 retary for Health pursuant to subsection (d) of
9 such section (as so added) to disseminate useful
10 information derived from such activities
11 throughout the Veterans Health Administra-
12 tion.

13 (2) The Secretary's evaluations of the effective-
14 ness of the centers in fulfilling the purposes of the
15 centers.

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