

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. RES. 526

Providing for the concurrence by the House with an amendment in the amendments of the Senate to H.R. 3253.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

---

## RESOLUTION

Providing for the concurrence by the House with an amendment in the amendments of the Senate to H.R. 3253.

1       *Resolved*, That, upon the adoption of this resolution,  
2 the House shall be considered to have taken from the  
3 Speaker's table the bill H.R. 3253, with the Senate  
4 amendments thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate  
5 amendment to the title of the bill and to have concurred  
6 in the Senate amendment to the text of the bill with the  
7 following amendment:

8       In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the  
9 amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, insert  
10 the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Department of Vet-  
3 erans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Act of 2002”.

4 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAL EMERGENCY PRE-**  
5 **PAREDNESS CENTERS AT DEPARTMENT OF**  
6 **VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter II of chapter 73  
8 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at  
9 the end the following new section:

10 **“§ 7325. Medical emergency preparedness centers**

11 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.—(1) The Sec-  
12 retary shall establish four medical emergency prepared-  
13 ness centers in accordance with this section. Each such  
14 center shall be established at a Department medical center  
15 and shall be staffed by Department employees.

16 “(2) The Under Secretary for Health shall be respon-  
17 sible for supervising the operation of the centers estab-  
18 lished under this section. The Under Secretary shall pro-  
19 vide for ongoing evaluation of the centers and their com-  
20 pliance with the requirements of this section.

21 “(3) The Under Secretary shall carry out the Under  
22 Secretary’s functions under paragraph (2) in consultation  
23 with the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs with re-  
24 sponsibility for operations, preparedness, security, and law  
25 enforcement functions.

1       “(b) MISSION.—The mission of the centers shall be  
2 as follows:

3           “(1) To carry out research on, and to develop  
4 methods of detection, diagnosis, prevention, and  
5 treatment of injuries, diseases, and illnesses arising  
6 from the use of chemical, biological, radiological, in-  
7 cendiary or other explosive weapons or devices pos-  
8 ing threats to the public health and safety.

9           “(2) To provide education, training, and advice  
10 to health care professionals, including health care  
11 professionals outside the Veterans Health Adminis-  
12 tration, through the National Disaster Medical Sys-  
13 tem established pursuant to section 2811(b) of the  
14 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b))  
15 or through interagency agreements entered into by  
16 the Secretary for that purpose.

17           “(3) In the event of a disaster or emergency re-  
18 ferred to in section 1785(b) of this title, to provide  
19 such laboratory, epidemiological, medical, or other  
20 assistance as the Secretary considers appropriate to  
21 Federal, State, and local health care agencies and  
22 personnel involved in or responding to the disaster  
23 or emergency.

24       “(c) SELECTION OF CENTERS.—(1) The Secretary  
25 shall select the sites for the centers on the basis of a com-

1 petitive selection process. The Secretary may not des-  
2 ignate a site as a location for a center under this section  
3 unless the Secretary makes a finding under paragraph (2)  
4 with respect to the proposal for the designation of such  
5 site. To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary  
6 shall ensure the geographic dispersal of the sites through-  
7 out the United States. Any such center may be a consor-  
8 tium of efforts of more than one medical center.

9       “(2) A finding by the Secretary referred to in para-  
10 graph (1) with respect to a proposal for designation of  
11 a site as a location of a center under this section is a find-  
12 ing by the Secretary, upon the recommendations of the  
13 Under Secretary for Health and the Assistant Secretary  
14 with responsibility for operations, preparedness, security,  
15 and law enforcement functions, that the facility or facili-  
16 ties submitting the proposal have developed (or may rea-  
17 sonably be anticipated to develop) each of the following:

18           “(A) An arrangement with a qualifying medical  
19 school and a qualifying school of public health (or a  
20 consortium of such schools) under which physicians  
21 and other persons in the health field receive edu-  
22 cation and training through the participating De-  
23 partment medical facilities so as to provide those  
24 persons with training in the detection, diagnosis,  
25 prevention, and treatment of injuries, diseases, and

1 illnesses induced by exposures to chemical and bio-  
2 logical substances, radiation, and incendiary or other  
3 explosive weapons or devices.

4 “(B) An arrangement with a graduate school  
5 specializing in epidemiology under which students  
6 receive education and training in epidemiology  
7 through the participating Department facilities so as  
8 to provide such students with training in the epide-  
9 miology of contagious and infectious diseases and  
10 chemical and radiation poisoning in an exposed pop-  
11 ulation.

12 “(C) An arrangement under which nursing, so-  
13 cial work, counseling, or allied health personnel and  
14 students receive training and education in recog-  
15 nizing and caring for conditions associated with ex-  
16 posures to toxins through the participating Depart-  
17 ment facilities.

18 “(D) The ability to attract scientists who have  
19 made significant contributions to the development of  
20 innovative approaches to the detection, diagnosis,  
21 prevention, or treatment of injuries, diseases, and ill-  
22 nesses arising from the use of chemical, biological,  
23 radiological, incendiary or other explosive weapons  
24 or devices posing threats to the public health and  
25 safety.

1 “(3) For purposes of paragraph (2)(A)—

2 “(A) a qualifying medical school is an accredited  
3 ited medical school that provides education and  
4 training in toxicology and environmental health haz-  
5 ards and with which one or more of the participating  
6 Department medical centers is affiliated; and

7 “(B) a qualifying school of public health is an  
8 accredited school of public health that provides edu-  
9 cation and training in toxicology and environmental  
10 health hazards and with which one or more of the  
11 participating Department medical centers is affili-  
12 ated.

13 “(d) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—Each center shall con-  
14 duct research on improved medical preparedness to protect  
15 the Nation from threats in the area of that center’s exper-  
16 tise. Each center may seek research funds from public and  
17 private sources for such purpose.

18 “(e) DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH PRODUCTS.—(1)  
19 The Under Secretary for Health and the Assistant Sec-  
20 retary with responsibility for operations, preparedness, se-  
21 curity, and law enforcement functions shall ensure that  
22 information produced by the research, education and  
23 training, and clinical activities of centers established under  
24 this section is made available, as appropriate, to health-  
25 care providers in the United States. Dissemination of such

1 information shall be made through publications, through  
2 programs of continuing medical and related education pro-  
3 vided through regional medical education centers under  
4 subchapter VI of chapter 74 of this title, and through  
5 other means. Such programs of continuing medical edu-  
6 cation shall receive priority in the award of funding.

7       “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that the work of the  
8 centers is conducted in close coordination with other Fed-  
9 eral departments and agencies and that research products  
10 or other information of the centers shall be coordinated  
11 and shared with other Federal departments and agencies.

12       “(f) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary  
13 shall take appropriate actions to ensure that the work of  
14 each center is carried out—

15               “(1) in close coordination with the Department  
16 of Defense, the Department of Health and Human  
17 Services, and other departments, agencies, and ele-  
18 ments of the Government charged with coordination  
19 of plans for United States homeland security; and

20               “(2) after taking into consideration applicable  
21 recommendations of the working group on the pre-  
22 vention, preparedness, and response to bioterrorism  
23 and other public health emergencies established  
24 under section 319F(a) of the Public Health Service  
25 Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–6(a)) or any other joint inter-

1 agency advisory group or committee designated by  
2 the President or the President's designee to coordi-  
3 nate Federal research on weapons of mass destruc-  
4 tion.

5 “(g) ASSISTANCE TO OTHER AGENCIES.—The Sec-  
6 retary may provide assistance requested by appropriate  
7 Federal, State, and local civil and criminal authorities in  
8 investigations, inquiries, and data analyses as necessary  
9 to protect the public safety and prevent or obviate biologi-  
10 cal, chemical, or radiological threats.

11 “(h) DETAIL OF EMPLOYEES FROM OTHER AGEN-  
12 CIES.—Upon approval by the Secretary, the Director of  
13 a center may request the temporary assignment or detail  
14 to the center, on a nonreimbursable basis, of employees  
15 from other departments and agencies of the United States  
16 who have expertise that would further the mission of the  
17 center. Any such employee may be so assigned or detailed  
18 on a nonreimbursable basis pursuant to such a request.

19 “(i) FUNDING.—(1) Amounts appropriated for the  
20 activities of the centers under this section shall be appro-  
21 priated separately from amounts appropriated for the De-  
22 partment for medical care.

23 “(2) In addition to funds appropriated for a fiscal  
24 year specifically for the activities of the centers pursuant  
25 to paragraph (1), the Under Secretary for Health shall

1 allocate to such centers from other funds appropriated for  
2 that fiscal year generally for the Department medical care  
3 account and the Department medical and prosthetics re-  
4 search account such amounts as the Under Secretary de-  
5 termines appropriate to carry out the purposes of this sec-  
6 tion. Any determination by the Under Secretary under the  
7 preceding sentence shall be made in consultation with the  
8 Assistant Secretary with responsibility for operations, pre-  
9 paredness, security, and law enforcement functions.

10 “(3) There are authorized to be appropriated for the  
11 centers under this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal  
12 years 2003 through 2007.”.

13 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such  
14 chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating  
15 to section 7324 the following new item:

“7325. Medical emergency preparedness centers.”.

16 (b) PEER REVIEW FOR DESIGNATION OF CEN-  
17 TERS.—(1) In order to assist the Secretary of Veterans  
18 Affairs and the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for  
19 Health in selecting sites for centers under section 7325  
20 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection  
21 (a), the Under Secretary shall establish a peer review  
22 panel to assess the scientific and clinical merit of pro-  
23 posals that are submitted to the Secretary for the designa-  
24 tion of such centers. The peer review panel shall be estab-  
25 lished in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Vet-

1 erans Affairs with responsibility for operations, prepared-  
2 ness, security, and law enforcement functions.

3 (2) The peer review panel shall include experts in the  
4 fields of toxicological research, infectious diseases, radi-  
5 ology, clinical care of patients exposed to such hazards,  
6 and other persons as determined appropriate by the Sec-  
7 retary. Members of the panel shall serve as consultants  
8 to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

9 (3) The panel shall review each proposal submitted  
10 to the panel by the officials referred to in paragraph (1)  
11 and shall submit to the Under Secretary for Health its  
12 views on the relative scientific and clinical merit of each  
13 such proposal. The panel shall specifically determine with  
14 respect to each such proposal whether that proposal is  
15 among those proposals which have met the highest com-  
16 petitive standards of scientific and clinical merit.

17 (4) The panel shall not be subject to the Federal Ad-  
18 visory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

19 **SEC. 3. EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ON MED-**  
20 **ICAL RESPONSES TO CONSEQUENCES OF**  
21 **TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter II of chapter 73  
23 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding  
24 after section 7325, as added by section 2(a)(1), the fol-  
25 lowing new section:

1 **“§ 7326. Education and training programs on medical**  
2 **response to consequences of terrorist ac-**  
3 **tivities**

4 “(a) EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall  
5 carry out a program to develop and disseminate a series  
6 of model education and training programs on the medical  
7 responses to the consequences of terrorist activities.

8 “(b) IMPLEMENTING OFFICIAL.—The program shall  
9 be carried out through the Under Secretary for Health,  
10 in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Veterans  
11 Affairs with responsibility for operations, preparedness,  
12 security, and law enforcement functions.

13 “(c) CONTENT OF PROGRAMS.—The education and  
14 training programs developed under the program shall be  
15 modelled after programs established at the F. Edward  
16 Hébert School of Medicine of the Uniformed Services Uni-  
17 versity of the Health Sciences and shall include, at a min-  
18 imum, training for health care professionals in the fol-  
19 lowing:

20 “(1) Recognition of chemical, biological, radio-  
21 logical, incendiary, or other explosive agents, weap-  
22 ons, or devices that may be used in terrorist activi-  
23 ties.

24 “(2) Identification of the potential symptoms of  
25 exposure to those agents.

1           “(3) Understanding of the potential long-term  
2 health consequences, including psychological effects,  
3 resulting from exposure to those agents, weapons, or  
4 devices.

5           “(4) Emergency treatment for exposure to  
6 those agents, weapons, or devices.

7           “(5) An appropriate course of followup treat-  
8 ment, supportive care, and referral.

9           “(6) Actions that can be taken while providing  
10 care for exposure to those agents, weapons, or de-  
11 vices to protect against contamination, injury, or  
12 other hazards from such exposure.

13           “(7) Information on how to seek consultative  
14 support and to report suspected or actual use of  
15 those agents.

16           “(d) POTENTIAL TRAINEES.—In designing the edu-  
17 cation and training programs under this section, the Sec-  
18 retary shall ensure that different programs are designed  
19 for health-care professionals in Department medical cen-  
20 ters. The programs shall be designed to be disseminated  
21 to health professions students, graduate health and med-  
22 ical education trainees, and health practitioners in a vari-  
23 ety of fields.

24           “(e) CONSULTATION.—In establishing education and  
25 training programs under this section, the Secretary shall

1 consult with appropriate representatives of accrediting,  
 2 certifying, and coordinating organizations in the field of  
 3 health professions education.”.

4 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such  
 5 chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating  
 6 to section 7325, as added by section 2(a)(2), the following  
 7 new item:

“7326. Education and training programs on medical response to consequences  
 of terrorist activities.”.

8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary of Veterans  
 9 Affairs shall implement section 7326 of title 38, United  
 10 States Code, as added by subsection (a), not later than  
 11 the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the  
 12 enactment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO FURNISH HEALTH CARE DURING**  
 14 **MAJOR DISASTERS AND MEDICAL EMER-**  
 15 **GENCIES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter VIII of chapter 17  
 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at  
 18 the end the following new section:

19 **“§ 1785. Care and services during certain disasters**  
 20 **and emergencies**

21 “(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE HOSPITAL CARE AND  
 22 MEDICAL SERVICES.—During and immediately following  
 23 a disaster or emergency referred to in subsection (b), the  
 24 Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services

1 to individuals responding to, involved in, or otherwise af-  
2 fected by that disaster or emergency.

3 “(b) COVERED DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES.—A  
4 disaster or emergency referred to in this subsection is any  
5 disaster or emergency as follows:

6 “(1) A major disaster or emergency declared by  
7 the President under the Robert B. Stafford Disaster  
8 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
9 5121 et seq.).

10 “(2) A disaster or emergency in which the Na-  
11 tional Disaster Medical System established pursuant  
12 to section 2811(b) of the Public Health Service Act  
13 (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b)) is activated by the Sec-  
14 retary of Health and Human Services under para-  
15 graph (3)(A) of that section or as otherwise author-  
16 ized by law.

17 “(c) APPLICABILITY TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO  
18 ARE VETERANS.—The Secretary may furnish care and  
19 services under this section to an individual described in  
20 subsection (a) who is a veteran without regard to whether  
21 that individual is enrolled in the system of patient enroll-  
22 ment under section 1705 of this title.

23 “(d) REIMBURSEMENT FROM OTHER FEDERAL DE-  
24 PARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—(1) The cost of any care or  
25 services furnished under this section to an officer or em-

1 ployee of a department or agency of the United States  
2 other than the Department or to a member of the Armed  
3 Forces shall be reimbursed at such rates as may be agreed  
4 upon by the Secretary and the head of such department  
5 or agency or the Secretary concerned, in the case of a  
6 member of the Armed Forces, based on the cost of the  
7 care or service furnished.

8       “(2) Amounts received by the Department under this  
9 subsection shall be credited to the Medical Care Collec-  
10 tions Fund under section 1729A of this title.

11       “(e) REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—  
12 Within 60 days of the commencement of a disaster or  
13 emergency referred to in subsection (b) in which the Sec-  
14 retary furnishes care and services under this section (or  
15 as soon thereafter as is practicable), the Secretary shall  
16 submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-  
17 ate and the House of Representatives a report on the Sec-  
18 retary’s allocation of facilities and personnel in order to  
19 furnish such care and services.

20       “(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe  
21 regulations governing the exercise of the authority of the  
22 Secretary under this section.”.

23       (2) The table of sections at the beginning of that  
24 chapter is amended by adding at the end the following  
25 new item:

“1785. Care and services during certain disasters and emergencies.”.

1 (b) MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON ACTIVE  
2 DUTY.—Section 8111A(a) of such title is amended—

3 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-  
4 graph (4);

5 (2) by designating the second sentence of para-  
6 graph (1) as paragraph (3); and

7 (3) by inserting between paragraph (1) and  
8 paragraph (3), as designated by paragraph (2) of  
9 this subsection, the following new paragraph:

10 “(2)(A) During and immediately following a disaster  
11 or emergency referred to in subparagraph (B), the Sec-  
12 retary may furnish hospital care and medical services to  
13 members of the Armed Forces on active duty responding  
14 to or involved in that disaster or emergency.

15 “(B) A disaster or emergency referred to in this sub-  
16 paragraph is any disaster or emergency as follows:

17 “(i) A major disaster or emergency declared by  
18 the President under the Robert B. Stafford Disaster  
19 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
20 5121 et seq.).

21 “(ii) A disaster or emergency in which the Na-  
22 tional Disaster Medical System established pursuant  
23 to section 2811(b) of the Public Health Service Act  
24 (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b)) is activated by the Sec-  
25 retary of Health and Human Services under para-

1 graph (3)(A) of that section or as otherwise author-  
2 ized by law.”.

3 **SEC. 5. 10-YEAR EXTENSION OF EXPIRED AUTHORITY.**

4 Effective September 30, 2002, subsection (d) of sec-  
5 tion 1722A of title 38, United States Code, is amended  
6 by striking “September 30, 2002” and inserting “Sep-  
7 tember 30, 2012”.

8 **SEC. 6. INCREASE IN NUMBER OF ASSISTANT SECRETARIES**  
9 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

10 (a) INCREASE.—Subsection (a) of section 308 of title  
11 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “six” in  
12 the first sentence and inserting “seven”.

13 (b) FUNCTIONS.—Subsection (b) of such section is  
14 amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
15 graph:

16 “(11) Operations, preparedness, security, and  
17 law enforcement functions.”.

18 (c) NUMBER OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRE-  
19 TARIES.—Subsection (d)(1) of such section is amended by  
20 striking “18” and inserting “19”.

21 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5315 of  
22 title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “(6)”  
23 after “Assistant Secretaries, Department of Veterans Af-  
24 fairs” and inserting “(7)”.

1 **SEC. 7. CODIFICATION OF DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF VET-**  
2 **ERANS AFFAIRS RELATING TO EMERGENCY**  
3 **PREPAREDNESS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter I of chapter 81  
5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at  
6 the end the following new section:

7 **“§ 8117. Emergency preparedness**

8 “(a) READINESS OF DEPARTMENT MEDICAL CEN-  
9 TERS.—(1) The Secretary shall take appropriate actions  
10 to provide for the readiness of Department medical centers  
11 to protect the patients and staff of such centers from  
12 chemical or biological attack or otherwise to respond to  
13 such an attack so as to enable such centers to fulfill their  
14 obligations as part of the Federal response to public health  
15 emergencies.

16 “(2) Actions under paragraph (1) shall include—

17 “(A) the provision of decontamination equip-  
18 ment and personal protection equipment at Depart-  
19 ment medical centers; and

20 “(B) the provision of training in the use of such  
21 equipment to staff of such centers.

22 “(b) SECURITY AT DEPARTMENT MEDICAL AND RE-  
23 SEARCH FACILITIES.—(1) The Secretary shall take appro-  
24 priate actions to provide for the security of Department  
25 medical centers and research facilities, including staff and  
26 patients at such centers and facilities.

1       “(2) In taking actions under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
2 retary shall take into account the results of the evaluation  
3 of the security needs at Department medical centers and  
4 research facilities required by section 154(b)(1) of the  
5 Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness  
6 and Response Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–188; 116  
7 Stat. 631), including the results of such evaluation relat-  
8 ing to the following needs:

9               “(A) Needs for the protection of patients and  
10       medical staff during emergencies, including a chem-  
11       ical or biological attack or other terrorist attack.

12               “(B) Needs, if any, for screening personnel en-  
13       gaged in research relating to biological pathogens or  
14       agents, including work associated with such re-  
15       search.

16               “(C) Needs for securing laboratories or other  
17       facilities engaged in research relating to biological  
18       pathogens or agents.

19       “(c) TRACKING OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND MED-  
20 ICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.—The Secretary shall  
21 develop and maintain a centralized system for tracking the  
22 current location and availability of pharmaceuticals, med-  
23 ical supplies, and medical equipment throughout the De-  
24 partment health care system in order to permit the ready  
25 identification and utilization of such pharmaceuticals, sup-

1 plies, and equipment for a variety of purposes, including  
2 response to a chemical or biological attack or other ter-  
3 rorist attack.

4 “(d) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure that the  
5 Department medical centers, in consultation with the ac-  
6 credited medical school affiliates of such medical centers,  
7 develop and implement curricula to train resident physi-  
8 cians and health care personnel in medical matters relat-  
9 ing to biological, chemical, or radiological attacks or at-  
10 tacks from an incendiary or other explosive weapon.

11 “(e) PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL DISASTER MED-  
12 ICAL SYSTEM.—(1) The Secretary shall establish and  
13 maintain a training program to facilitate the participation  
14 of the staff of Department medical centers, and of the  
15 community partners of such centers, in the National Dis-  
16 aster Medical System established pursuant to section  
17 2811(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
18 300hh–11(b)).

19 “(2) The Secretary shall establish and maintain the  
20 training program under paragraph (1) in accordance with  
21 the recommendations of the working group on the preven-  
22 tion, preparedness, and response to bioterrorism and other  
23 public health emergencies established under section  
24 319F(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
25 247d–6(a)).

1       “(3) The Secretary shall establish and maintain the  
2 training program under paragraph (1) in consultation  
3 with the following:

4           “(A) The Secretary of Defense.

5           “(B) The Secretary of Health and Human  
6 Services.

7           “(C) The Director of the Federal Emergency  
8 Management Agency.

9       “(f) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—(1) With re-  
10 spect to activities conducted by personnel serving at De-  
11 partment medical centers, the Secretary shall develop and  
12 maintain various strategies for providing mental health  
13 counseling and assistance, including counseling and assist-  
14 ance for post-traumatic stress disorder, following a bioter-  
15 rorist attack or other public health emergency to the fol-  
16 lowing persons:

17           “(A) Veterans.

18           “(B) Local and community emergency response  
19 providers.

20           “(C) Active duty military personnel.

21           “(D) Individuals seeking care at Department  
22 medical centers.

23       “(2) The strategies under paragraph (1) shall include  
24 the following:

1           “(A) Training and certification of providers of  
2           mental health counseling and assistance.

3           “(B) Mechanisms for coordinating the provision  
4           of mental health counseling and assistance to emer-  
5           gency response providers referred to in paragraph  
6           (1).

7           “(3) The Secretary shall develop and maintain the  
8           strategies under paragraph (1) in consultation with the  
9           Secretary of Health and Human Services, the American  
10          Red Cross, and the working group referred to in sub-  
11          section (e)(2).”.

12          (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such  
13          chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating  
14          to section 8116 the following new item:

          “8117. Emergency preparedness.”.

15          (b) REPEAL OF CODIFIED PROVISIONS.—Subsections  
16          (a), (b)(2), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of section 154 of the Pub-  
17          lic Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and  
18          Response Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–188; 38 U.S.C.  
19          note prec. 8101) are repealed.

20          (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (g) of  
21          such section is amended—

22                  (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “of section  
23                  8117 of title 38, United States Code” after “sub-  
24                  section (a)”;

1           (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “subsections  
2           (b) through (f)” and inserting “subsection (b)(1) of  
3           this section and subsections (b) through (f) of sec-  
4           tion 8117 of title 38, United States Code”.

○