

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1546

To authorize members of the Armed Forces receiving outpatient care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to receive such care through the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 15, 2007

Mr. HALL of New York (for himself, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HARE, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOLT, Ms. HOOLEY, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. SPACE, and Mr. WELCH of Vermont) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize members of the Armed Forces receiving outpatient care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center to receive such care through 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. OUTPATIENT CARE FROM DEPARTMENT OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR MEMBERS OF THE**
3 **ARMED FORCES RECEIVING SUCH CARE AT**
4 **WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER.**

5 (a) OPTION TO RECEIVE CARE.—The Secretary of
6 Defense shall, upon the election of any member of the
7 Armed Forces receiving outpatient care at or through
8 Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Maryland, transfer
9 such member to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the
10 receipt of outpatient care from the Secretary of Veterans
11 Affairs.

12 (b) INFORMATION ON AVAILABLE CARE.—In order to
13 assist members of the Armed Forces described in sub-
14 section (a) in making the election authorized by that sub-
15 section, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Vet-
16 erans Affairs shall jointly provide such members such in-
17 formation on the nature and quality of outpatient care
18 services available at applicable facilities of the Department
19 of Veterans Affairs as such members may require to make
20 the election.

21 (c) PROVISION OF CARE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
23 Affairs shall provide outpatient care to each member
24 of the Armed Forces making an election under sub-
25 section (a) at the facility of the Department of Vet-
26 erans Affairs capable of providing such care that is

1 located nearest to the permanent duty station or res-
2 idence (as selected by such member) of such mem-
3 ber.

4 (2) COST.—The cost of the provision of out-
5 patient care to members of the Armed Forces under
6 this section shall be borne by the Department of De-
7 fense.

8 (d) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Sec-
9 retary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
10 shall enter into a memorandum of understanding in order
11 to carry out this section. The memorandum shall include
12 mechanisms for payment by the Department of Defense
13 of the costs of care under this section in accordance with
14 subsection (e)(2).

15 (e) MILITARY STATUS.—The transfer of a member
16 of the Armed Forces under this section shall not effect
17 the military status of such member, or the eligibility or
18 entitlement of such member to pay, allowances, and other
19 benefits as a member of the Armed Forces under law.

20 (f) TERMINATION.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall cease to
22 be in effect 60 days after the date on which the Sec-
23 retary of Defense submits to the Committees on
24 Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Rep-
25 resentatives a certification of each the following:

1 (A) That the Department of Defense com-
2 pletes the processing of status claims of mem-
3 bers of the Armed Forces who receive out-
4 patient care at Walter Reed Army Medical Cen-
5 ter not later than 60 days after the date on
6 which such members present such claims.

7 (B) That the outpatient care buildings at
8 Walter Reed Army Medical Center—

9 (i) are structurally sound, free of in-
10 festation, and free of mold;

11 (ii) provide heat and air-conditioning;

12 and

13 (iii) have working plumbing.

14 (C) That the case manager positions and
15 psychological counselor positions at Walter
16 Reed Army Medical Center are fully staffed for
17 outpatient care.

18 (2) CONTINUATION OF CARE.—Notwithstanding
19 the termination of this section under paragraph (1),
20 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall continue to
21 provide outpatient care after the date of termination
22 to members of the Armed Forces who were trans-
23 ferred before the date of termination in accordance
24 with the provisions of this section.

○