

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2226

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide readjustment counseling and related mental health services to veterans through the use of mobile centers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 8, 2007

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide readjustment counseling and related mental health services to veterans through the use of mobile centers.

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. PILOT PROGRAM FOR DELIVERY OF READJUST-**
2 **MENT COUNSELING AND MENTAL HEALTH**
3 **SERVICES TO VETERANS THROUGH MOBILE**
4 **VET CENTERS.**

5 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1712B
7 the following new section:

8 **“§ 1712C. Pilot program for delivery of readjustment**
9 **counseling and mental health services**
10 **through mobile Vet Centers**

11 “(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—To improve access to mental
12 health services in rural areas, the Secretary shall carry
13 out a pilot program under which the Secretary shall pro-
14 vide readjustment counseling and related mental health
15 services through the use of mobile centers (as that term
16 is defined in section 1712A(i)(1)), to be known as ‘mobile
17 Vet Centers’. In carrying out the pilot program, the Sec-
18 retary shall determine the most effective manner in which
19 to operate the mobile Vet Centers.

20 “(b) SCOPE AND LOCATION.—(1) The Secretary shall
21 establish two mobile Vet Centers in each of the following
22 five Veterans Integrated Service Networks:

23 “(A) Veterans Integrated Service Network 1.

24 “(B) Veterans Integrated Service Network 16.

25 “(C) Veterans Integrated Service Network 19.

26 “(D) Veterans Integrated Service Network 20.

1 “(E) Veterans Integrated Service Network 23.

2 “(2) Within each Veterans Integrated Service Net-
3 work under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall determine
4 the area to be serviced by each mobile Vet Center. In mak-
5 ing that determination, the Secretary shall give priority
6 to areas in which limited mental health services are avail-
7 able.

8 “(3) If the Secretary determines that mobile Vet Cen-
9 ters in addition to such centers required under paragraph
10 (1) are warranted, the Secretary may establish additional
11 mobile Vet Centers and may establish such centers in Vet-
12 erans Integrated Service Networks other than the Vet-
13 erans Integrated Service Networks referred to in that
14 paragraph. Upon such a determination by the Secretary,
15 the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Veterans’ Af-
16 fairs of the Senate and House of Representatives of such
17 determination.

18 “(c) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a
19 pilot program under this section shall terminate on the
20 date that is three years after the date of the enactment
21 of this section.

22 “(d) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
23 on which the pilot program terminates under subsection
24 (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Vet-
25 erans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Representatives

1 a report on the pilot program. Such report shall describe
2 how the Secretary established and carried out the pilot
3 program and include an evaluation of the Secretary of the
4 benefits and disadvantages of providing readjustment
5 counseling and related mental health services through the
6 use of mobile Vet Centers.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
8 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
9 after the item related to section 1712B the following new
10 item:

“1712C. Pilot program for delivery of readjustment counseling and mental
health services through mobile Vet Centers.”.

