

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1408

To amend title 38, United States Code, to standardize the income threshold for copayment for outpatient medications with the income threshold for inability to defray necessary expenses of care, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

Mr. ROCKEFELLER 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 standardize the income threshold for copayment for outpatient medications with the income threshold for inability to defray necessary expenses of care, 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 “Veterans’ Copayment
5 Adjustment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STANDARDIZATION OF INCOME THRESHOLDS FOR**
 2 **COPAYMENT FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICATIONS**
 3 **AND FOR INABILITY TO DEFRAY NECESSARY**
 4 **EXPENSES OF CARE.**

5 (a) STANDARDIZATION.—Section 1722A(a)(3)(B) of
 6 title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as fol-
 7 lows:

8 “(B) to a veteran whose attributable income is
 9 not greater than the amount provided for in sub-
 10 section (b) of section 1722 of this title, as adjusted
 11 from time to time under subsection (c) of that sec-
 12 tion.”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 14 subsection (a) shall take effect on January 1, 2002, and
 15 shall apply with respect to calendar years beginning on
 16 or after that date.

17 **SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF INCREASE IN**
 18 **COPAYMENTS FOR OUTPATIENT MEDICA-**
 19 **TIONS PENDING COLLECTION OF COPAY-**
 20 **MENTS FOR OUTPATIENT CARE.**

21 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-
 22 retary of Veterans Affairs may not implement under sec-
 23 tion 1722A(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, an in-
 24 crease in the copayment amount for medications furnished
 25 on an outpatient basis under section 1722A(a) of that title
 26 until the Secretary commences collection of amounts for

- 1 outpatient visits for medical services under section
- 2 1710(g) of that title.

