

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1460

To provide for automatic enrollment of veterans returning from combat zones into the VA medical system, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 8, 2011

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

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## A BILL

To provide for automatic enrollment of veterans returning from combat zones into the VA medical system, 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. AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT OF VETERANS RE-**  
4 **TURNING FROM COMBAT ZONES INTO THE VA**  
5 **MEDICAL SYSTEM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the  
7 date on which a veteran described in section  
8 1710(e)(1)(D) of title 38, United States Code, is dis-  
9 charged or separated from service in the active military,

1 naval, or air service, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,  
2 in cooperation with the Secretary of Defense, shall—

3 (1) enroll such veteran in the patient enroll-  
4 ment system maintained by the Secretary under sec-  
5 tion 1705 of that title; and

6 (2) provide such veteran with—

7 (A) a veterans identification card that—

8 (i) demonstrates that such veteran is  
9 enrolled in such system; and

10 (ii) allows such veteran to access hos-  
11 pital care and medical services at Depart-  
12 ment of Veterans Affairs medical facilities;

13 (B) a list of Department of Veterans Af-  
14 fairs medical facilities (including hospitals, out-  
15 patient centers, and mental health clinics) that  
16 are—

17 (i) located within 100 miles of the  
18 home of the veteran; or

19 (ii) the closest to the veteran's home,  
20 if no such facilities are located within 100  
21 miles of the home of the veteran; and

22 (C) a description of available Federal vet-  
23 erans benefits and programs, including edu-  
24 cational benefits and job training and place-  
25 ment programs, which the veteran may be eligi-

1           ble for due to the veteran’s service in the active  
2           military, naval, or air service.

3           (b) OPT OUT PROVISIONS.—

4           (1) PRIOR TO ENROLLMENT.—

5                   (A) OPTION NOT TO ENROLL.—During the  
6           discharge or separation process for a person  
7           from active military, naval, or air service, and  
8           prior to enrolling the person pursuant to sub-  
9           section (a)(1), the Secretary of Veterans Af-  
10          fairs, in coordination with the Secretary of De-  
11          fense, shall provide the person with the option  
12          to decline such enrollment.

13                   (B) NOTICE TO SECRETARY; PROHIBITION  
14          ON ENROLLMENT.—If a person provides notice  
15          to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that the  
16          person is declining enrollment under subpara-  
17          graph (A), the Secretary may not enroll the  
18          person pursuant to subsection (a)(1).

19           (2) SUBSEQUENT TO ENROLLMENT.—

20                   (A) NOTICE TO SECRETARY.—Not later  
21          than 6 months after the date on which a vet-  
22          eran is enrolled under section 1705 of title 38,  
23          United States Code, pursuant to subsection  
24          (a)(1), a veteran so enrolled may disenroll from  
25          the patient enrollment system under such sec-

1           tion by providing notice to the Secretary of Vet-  
2           erans Affairs.

3                   (B) DISENROLLMENT.—Not later than 60  
4           days after receiving notice from a veteran under  
5           subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Veterans  
6           Affairs shall disenroll such veteran from such  
7           patient enrollment system.

8           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect  
9           on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment  
10          of this Act.

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