To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out pilot programs on furnishing case management services and assisted living to children of Vietnam veterans and certain Korea service veterans born with spina bifida and children of women Vietnam veterans born with certain birth defects, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2013

Mr. DONNELLY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out pilot programs on furnishing case management services and assisted living to children of Vietnam veterans and certain Korea service veterans born with spina bifida and children of women Vietnam veterans born with certain birth defects, 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
4 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
5 This Act may be cited as the “Improving the Lives
6 of Children with Spina Bifida Act of 2013”.
SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON FURNISHING CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES TO CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS AND CERTAIN KOREA SERVICE VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA AND CHILDREN OF WOMEN VIETNAM VETERANS BORN WITH CERTAIN BIRTH DEFECTS.

(a) Pilot Program.—Commencing not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of furnishing to covered individuals case management services under a national contract with a third party entity.

(b) Covered Individuals.—For purposes of this section, a covered individual is any individual who—

(1) is entitled to health care or other benefits under chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code; and

(2) lives in a rural area and does not have access to case management services at the Department of Veterans Affairs or otherwise.

(c) Duration.—

(1) In general.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the pilot program shall be carried out during the three-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.
(2) CONTINUATION.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary may continue the pilot program for an additional two-year period as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(3) TERMINATION.—The pilot program may not operate after the date that is five years after the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(d) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall select locations in which to carry out the pilot program from among locations that the Secretary considers rural and where individuals who reside in such locations lack access to comprehensive case management services through the Department or otherwise.

(e) SCOPE OF SERVICES.—Under the pilot program, the Secretary shall provide covered individuals with integrated, comprehensive services, including the following:

(1) Coordination and management of needed health care, monetary, and general care services authorized under chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) Transportation services.

(3) Such other services as the Secretary considers appropriate for the care of covered individuals under the pilot program.
(f) Program Requirements.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(1) inform all covered individuals of the services available under the pilot program;

(2) enter into contracts with appropriate third party entities for the provision of case management services under the pilot program; and

(3) determine the appropriate number of covered individuals to be enrolled in the pilot program and criteria for such enrollment.

(g) Reports.—

(1) Preliminary reports.—

(A) In general.—Not later than one year after the date of the commencement of the pilot program and, if the pilot program is continued under subsection (c)(2), not later than three years after the date of the commencement of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program.

(B) Contents.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:
(i) A description of the implementation and operation of the pilot program.

(ii) The number of covered individuals receiving benefits under the pilot program.

(iii) An analysis of the costs and benefits under the pilot program.

(iv) An assessment of the utilization of case management under the pilot program.

(v) The findings and conclusions of the Secretary with respect to the pilot program.

(vi) Such recommendations for the continuation or expansion of the pilot program as the Secretary may have.

(2) Final report.—

(A) In general.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program.

(B) Contents.—The report submitted subparagraph (A) shall include the following:
(i) The findings and conclusions of the Secretary with respect to the pilot program.

(ii) Such recommendations for the continuation or expansion of the pilot program as the Secretary may have.

(h) FUNDING.—Amounts to carry out the pilot program shall be derived from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available before the date of the enactment of this Act for the furnishing of care and case management under chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM ON FURNISHING ASSISTED LIVING TO CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS AND CERTAIN KOREA SERVICE VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA AND CHILDREN OF WOMEN VIETNAM VETERANS BORN WITH CERTAIN BIRTH DEFECTS.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Commencing not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing assisted living, group home care, or similar services in lieu of nursing home care to covered individuals.

(b) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of this section, a covered individual is any individual who is enti-
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tled to health care or other benefits under chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code.

(c) DURATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the pilot program shall be carried out during the three-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(2) CONTINUATION.—Subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary may continue the pilot program for an additional two-year period as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(3) TERMINATION.—The pilot program may not operate after the date that is five years after the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

(d) SCOPE OF SERVICES AND PILOT PROGRAM.—

Under the pilot program, the Secretary shall provide covered individuals with integrated, comprehensive services, including the following:

(1) Assisted living, group home care, or such other similar services as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(2) Transportation services.
(3) Such other services as the Secretary considers appropriate for the care of covered individuals under the pilot program.

(e) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(1) inform all covered individuals of the services available under the pilot program;

(2) consider entering into an agreement with appropriate providers of assisted living, group home care, or other similar services for provision of services under the pilot program; and

(3) determine the appropriate number of covered individuals to be enrolled in the pilot program and criteria for such enrollment.

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) PRELIMINARY REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the commencement of the pilot program and, if the pilot program is continued under subsection (e)(2), not later than three years after the date of the commencement of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
the House of Representatives a report on the
pilot program.

(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted
under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
lowing:

(i) A description of the implementa-
tion and operation of the pilot program.

(ii) The number of covered individuals
receiving benefits under the pilot program.

(iii) An analysis that compares the
costs of furnishing assisted living, group
home care, or similar service with the costs
of furnishing nursing home care.

(iv) An analysis of the costs and bene-
fits under the pilot program.

(v) The findings and conclusions of
the Secretary with respect to the pilot pro-
gram.

(vi) Such recommendations for the
continuation or expansion of the pilot pro-
gram as the Secretary may have.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
days after the completion of the pilot program,
the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program.

(B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) The findings and conclusions of the Secretary with respect to the pilot program.

(ii) Such recommendations for the continuation or expansion of the pilot program as the Secretary may have.

(g) FUNDING.—Amounts to carry out the pilot program shall be derived from amounts appropriated or otherwise made available before the date of the enactment of this Act for the furnishing of nursing home care under chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code.