

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 700

To improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 2017

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BROWN, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses or partners, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act of
6 2017”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
2 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—REPRODUCTIVE AND FERTILITY PRESERVATION
ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Sec. 101. Provision of fertility treatment and counseling to certain members of the Armed Forces and spouses, partners, and gestational surrogates of such members.

Sec. 102. Establishment of fertility preservation procedures after an injury or illness.

Sec. 103. Cryopreservation and storage of gametes of members of the Armed Forces on active duty.

Sec. 104. Coordination between Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs on furnishing of fertility treatment and counseling.

TITLE II—REPRODUCTIVE, ADOPTION, AND CHILD CARE
ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS

Sec. 201. Inclusion of fertility treatment and counseling under the definition of medical services in title 38.

Sec. 202. Fertility treatment and counseling for certain veterans and spouses, partners, and gestational surrogates of such veterans.

Sec. 203. Adoption assistance for severely wounded veterans.

Sec. 204. Annual report on fertility treatment and counseling furnished by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 205. Regulations on furnishing of fertility treatment and counseling and adoption assistance by Department of Veterans Affairs.

Sec. 206. Facilitation of reproduction and infertility research.

Sec. 207. Requirement to improve Department of Veterans Affairs women veterans contact center.

Sec. 208. Modification of pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces.

Sec. 209. Program on assistance for child care for certain veterans.

1 **TITLE I—REPRODUCTIVE AND**
2 **FERTILITY PRESERVATION**
3 **ASSISTANCE FOR MEMBERS**
4 **OF THE ARMED FORCES**

5 **SEC. 101. PROVISION OF FERTILITY TREATMENT AND**
6 **COUNSELING TO CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE**
7 **ARMED FORCES AND SPOUSES, PARTNERS,**
8 **AND GESTATIONAL SURROGATES OF SUCH**
9 **MEMBERS.**

10 (a) FERTILITY TREATMENT AND COUNSELING.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
12 shall furnish fertility treatment and counseling, in-
13 cluding through the use of assisted reproductive
14 technology, to a covered member of the Armed
15 Forces or a spouse, partner, or gestational surrogate
16 of such a member.

17 (2) ELIGIBILITY FOR TREATMENT AND COUN-
18 SELING.—Fertility treatment and counseling shall be
19 furnished under paragraph (1) without regard to the
20 sex or marital status of the covered member of the
21 Armed Forces.

22 (3) IN VITRO FERTILIZATION.—In the case of
23 in vitro fertilization treatment furnished under para-
24 graph (1), the Secretary may furnish not more than
25 three completed cycles or six attempted cycles of in

1 vitro fertilization, whichever occurs first, to an indi-
2 vidual under such paragraph.

3 (b) PROCUREMENT OF GAMETES.—If a covered
4 member of the Armed Forces is unable to provide their
5 gametes for purposes of fertility treatment under sub-
6 section (a), the Secretary shall, at the election of such
7 member, allow such member to receive such treatment
8 with donated gametes and pay or reimburse such member
9 the reasonable costs of procuring gametes from a donor.

10 (c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be
11 construed to require the Secretary—

12 (1) to find or certify a gestational surrogate for
13 a covered member of the Armed Forces or to con-
14 nect a gestational surrogate with such a member; or

15 (2) to find or certify gametes from a donor for
16 a covered member of the Armed Forces or to con-
17 nect such a member with gametes from a donor.

18 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY.—
20 The term “assisted reproductive technology” in-
21 cludes in vitro fertilization and other fertility treat-
22 ments in which both eggs and sperm are handled
23 when clinically appropriate.

24 (2) COVERED MEMBER OF THE ARMED
25 FORCES.—The term “covered member of the Armed

1 Forces” means a severely wounded, ill, or injured
2 member of the Armed Forces who has an infertility
3 condition incurred or aggravated while serving on
4 active duty in the Armed Forces.

5 (3) FERTILITY TREATMENT.—The term “fer-
6 tility treatment” includes the following:

7 (A) Procedures that use assisted reproduc-
8 tive technology.

9 (B) Sperm retrieval.

10 (C) Egg retrieval.

11 (D) Artificial insemination.

12 (E) Embryo transfer.

13 (F) Such other treatments as the Sec-
14 retary of Defense considers appropriate.

15 (4) PARTNER.—The term “partner”, with re-
16 spect to a member of the Armed Forces, means an
17 individual selected by the member who agrees to
18 share with the member the parental responsibilities
19 with respect to any child born as a result of the use
20 of any fertility treatment under this section.

21 **SEC. 102. ESTABLISHMENT OF FERTILITY PRESERVATION**

22 **PROCEDURES AFTER AN INJURY OR ILLNESS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, acting
24 through the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Af-
25 fairs, shall establish procedures for the retrieval of

1 gametes, as soon as medically appropriate, from a member
2 of the Armed Forces in cases in which the fertility of such
3 member is potentially jeopardized as a result of an injury
4 or illness incurred or aggravated while serving on active
5 duty in the Armed Forces in order to preserve the medical
6 options of such member.

7 (b) CONSENT FOR RETRIEVAL OF GAMETES.—
8 Gametes may be retrieved from a member of the Armed
9 Forces under subsection (a) only—

10 (1) with the specific consent of the member; or

11 (2) if the member is unable to consent, if a
12 medical professional determines that—

13 (A) the future fertility of the member is
14 potentially jeopardized as a result of an injury
15 or illness described in subsection (a) or will be
16 potentially jeopardized as a result of treating
17 such injury or illness;

18 (B) the member lacks the capacity to con-
19 sent to the retrieval of gametes and is likely to
20 regain such capacity; and

21 (C) the retrieval of gametes under this sec-
22 tion is in the medical interest of the member.

23 (c) CONSENT FOR USE OF RETRIEVED GAMETES.—
24 Gametes retrieved from a member of the Armed Forces
25 under subsection (a) may be used only—

1 (1) with the specific consent of the member; or

2 (2) if the member has lost the ability to consent

3 permanently, as determined by a medical profes-

4 sional, as specified in an advance directive or testa-

5 mentary instrument executed by the member.

6 (d) DISPOSAL OF GAMETES.—In accordance with
7 regulations prescribed by the Secretary for purpose of this
8 subsection, the Secretary shall dispose of gametes re-
9 trieved from a member of the Armed Forces under sub-
10 section (a)—

11 (1) with the specific consent of the member; or

12 (2) if the member—

13 (A) has lost the ability to consent perma-

14 nently, as determined by a medical professional;

15 and

16 (B) has not specified the use of their

17 gametes in an advance directive or testa-

18 mentary instrument executed by the member.

19 **SEC. 103. CRYOPRESERVATION AND STORAGE OF GAMETES**
20 **OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON AC-**
21 **TIVE DUTY.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall
23 provide members of the Armed Forces on active duty in
24 the Armed Forces with the opportunity to cryopreserve

1 and store their gametes prior to deployment to a combat
2 zone.

3 (b) PERIOD OF TIME.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
5 for the cryopreservation and storage of gametes of
6 any member of the Armed Forces under subsection
7 (a), at no cost to the member, in a facility of the
8 Department of Defense or of a private entity pursu-
9 ant to a contract under subsection (d) until the date
10 that is one year after the retirement, separation, or
11 release of the member from the Armed Forces.

12 (2) CONTINUED CRYOPRESERVATION AND
13 STORAGE.—At the end of the one-year period speci-
14 fied in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall permit an
15 individual whose gametes were cryopreserved and
16 stored in a facility of the Department as described
17 in that paragraph to select, including pursuant to an
18 advance medical directive or military testamentary
19 instrument completed under subsection (c), one of
20 the following options:

21 (A) To continue such cryopreservation and
22 storage in such facility with the cost of such
23 cryopreservation and storage borne by the indi-
24 vidual.

1 (B) To transfer the gametes to a private
2 cryopreservation and storage facility selected by
3 the individual.

4 (C) To transfer the gametes to a facility of
5 the Department of Veterans Affairs if
6 cryopreservation and storage is available to the
7 individual at such facility.

8 (3) DISPOSAL OF GAMETES.—If an individual
9 described in paragraph (2) does not make a selection
10 under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of such para-
11 graph, the Secretary may dispose of the gametes of
12 the individual not earlier than the date that is 90
13 days after the end of the one-year period specified
14 in paragraph (1) with respect to the individual.

15 (c) ADVANCE MEDICAL DIRECTIVE AND MILITARY
16 TESTAMENTARY INSTRUMENT.—A member of the Armed
17 Forces who elects to cryopreserve and store their gametes
18 under this section must complete an advance medical di-
19 rective, as defined in section 1044c(b) of title 10, United
20 States Code, and a military testamentary instrument, as
21 defined in section 1044d(b) of such title, that explicitly
22 specifies the use of their cryopreserved and stored gametes
23 if such member dies or otherwise loses the capacity to con-
24 sent to the use of their cryopreserved and stored gametes.

1 (d) AGREEMENTS.—To carry out this section, the
2 Secretary may enter into agreements with private entities
3 that provide cryopreservation and storage services for
4 gametes.

5 **SEC. 104. COORDINATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF DE-**
6 **FENSE AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
7 **FAIRS ON FURNISHING OF FERTILITY TREAT-**
8 **MENT AND COUNSELING.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the
10 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall share best practices
11 and facilitate referrals, as they consider appropriate, on
12 the furnishing of fertility treatment and counseling to in-
13 dividuals eligible for the receipt of such counseling and
14 treatment from the Secretaries.

15 (b) MEMORADUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Sec-
16 retary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
17 shall enter into a memorandum of understanding—

18 (1) providing that the Secretary of Defense will
19 ensure access by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
20 to gametes of veterans stored by the Department of
21 Defense for purposes of furnishing fertility treat-
22 ment under section 1720I of title 38, United States
23 Code, as added by section 202; and

24 (2) authorizing the Department of Veterans Af-
25 fairs to compensate the Department of Defense for

1 the cryopreservation and storage of gametes of vet-
 2 erans under section 103.

3 **TITLE II—REPRODUCTIVE,**
 4 **ADOPTION, AND CHILD CARE**
 5 **ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS**

6 **SEC. 201. INCLUSION OF FERTILITY TREATMENT AND**
 7 **COUNSELING UNDER THE DEFINITION OF**
 8 **MEDICAL SERVICES IN TITLE 38.**

9 Section 1701(6) of title 38, United States Code, is
 10 amended by adding at the end the following new subpara-
 11 graph:

12 “(H) Fertility treatment and counseling,
 13 including treatment using assisted reproductive
 14 technology.”.

15 **SEC. 202. FERTILITY TREATMENT AND COUNSELING FOR**
 16 **CERTAIN VETERANS AND SPOUSES, PART-**
 17 **NERS, AND GESTATIONAL SURROGATES OF**
 18 **SUCH VETERANS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of
 20 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
 21 end the following new section:

1 **“§ 1720I. Fertility treatment and counseling for cer-**
2 **tain veterans and spouses, partners, and**
3 **gestational surrogates of such veterans**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) The Secretary shall furnish
5 fertility treatment and counseling, including through the
6 use of assisted reproductive technology, to a covered vet-
7 eran or a spouse, partner, or gestational surrogate of a
8 covered veteran if the veteran, and the spouse, partner,
9 or gestational surrogate of the veteran, as applicable,
10 apply jointly for such counseling and treatment through
11 a process prescribed by the Secretary.

12 “(2) Fertility treatment and counseling shall be fur-
13 nished under paragraph (1) without regard to the sex or
14 marital status of the covered veteran.

15 “(3) In the case of in vitro fertilization treatment fur-
16 nished under paragraph (1), the Secretary may furnish
17 not more than three completed cycles or six attempted cy-
18 cles of in vitro fertilization, whichever occurs first, to an
19 individual under such paragraph.

20 “(b) COORDINATION OF CARE FOR OTHER INDIVID-
21 UALS.—In the case of a veteran or a spouse, partner, or
22 gestational surrogate of a veteran not described in sub-
23 section (a) who is seeking fertility treatment and coun-
24 seling, the Secretary may coordinate fertility treatment
25 and counseling for such veteran, spouse, partner, or gesta-
26 tional surrogate.

1 “(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall
2 be construed to require the Secretary—

3 “(1) to find or certify a gestational surrogate
4 for a covered veteran or to connect a gestational sur-
5 rogate with a covered veteran; or

6 “(2) to furnish maternity care to a covered vet-
7 eran or spouse, partner, or gestational surrogate of
8 a covered veteran in addition to what is otherwise
9 required by law.

10 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 “(1) The term ‘assisted reproductive tech-
12 nology’ includes in vitro fertilization and other fer-
13 tility treatments in which both eggs and sperm are
14 handled when clinically appropriate.

15 “(2) The term ‘covered veteran’ means a se-
16 verely wounded, ill, or injured veteran who—

17 “(A) has an infertility condition incurred
18 or aggravated in line of duty in the active mili-
19 tary, naval, or air service; and

20 “(B) is enrolled in the system of annual
21 patient enrollment established under section
22 1705(a) of this title.

23 “(3) The term ‘fertility treatment’ includes the
24 following:

1 **“§ 1788. Adoption assistance**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may pay an
3 amount, not to exceed the limitation amount, to assist a
4 covered veteran in the adoption of one or more children.

5 “(b) LIMITATION AMOUNT.—For purposes of this
6 section, the limitation amount is the amount equal to the
7 cost the Department would incur by paying the expenses
8 of three adoptions by covered veterans, as determined by
9 the Secretary.

10 “(c) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
11 the term ‘covered veteran’ has the meaning given that
12 term in section 1720I of this title.”.

13 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
14 at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended
15 by inserting after the item relating to section 1787 the
16 following new item:

“1788. Adoption assistance.”.

17 **SEC. 204. ANNUAL REPORT ON FERTILITY TREATMENT AND**
18 **COUNSELING FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT**
19 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently
22 than annually thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
23 fairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
24 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
25 the House of Representatives a report on the fertility

1 treatment and counseling furnished by the Department of
2 Veterans Affairs during the year preceding the submittal
3 of the report.

4 (b) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under sub-
5 section (a) shall include, for the period covered by the re-
6 port, the following:

7 (1) The number of veterans who received fer-
8 tility treatment or counseling furnished by the De-
9 partment of Veterans Affairs, disaggregated by era
10 of military service of such veterans.

11 (2) The number of spouses, partners, and ges-
12 tational surrogates of veterans who received fertility
13 treatment or counseling furnished by the Depart-
14 ment.

15 (3) The cost to the Department of furnishing
16 fertility treatment and counseling, disaggregated by
17 cost of services and administration.

18 (4) The average cost to the Department per re-
19 cipient of fertility treatment and counseling.

20 (5) In cases in which the Department furnished
21 fertility treatment through the use of assisted repro-
22 ductive technology, the average number of cycles per
23 person furnished, disaggregated by type of treat-
24 ment.

1 (6) A description of how fertility treatment and
2 counseling services of the Department are coordi-
3 nated with similar services of the Department of De-
4 fense.

5 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “as-
6 sisted reproductive technology” and “partner” have the
7 meanings given those term in section 1720I of title 38,
8 United States Code, as added by section 202.

9 **SEC. 205. REGULATIONS ON FURNISHING OF FERTILITY**
10 **TREATMENT AND COUNSELING AND ADOPTI-**
11 **ON ASSISTANCE BY DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
12 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

13 Not later than 18 months after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
15 prescribe regulations—

16 (1) to carry out section 1720I of title 38,
17 United States Code, as added by section 202; and

18 (2) to carry out section 1788 of such title, as
19 added by section 203.

20 **SEC. 206. FACILITATION OF REPRODUCTION AND INFERTILITY**
21 **RESEARCH.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of
23 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
24 end the following new section:

1 **“§ 7330C. Facilitation of reproduction and infertility**
 2 **research**

3 “(a) FACILITATION OF RESEARCH REQUIRED.—The
 4 Secretary shall facilitate research conducted collabo-
 5 ratively by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of
 6 Health and Human Services to improve the ability of the
 7 Department of Veterans Affairs to meet the long-term re-
 8 productive health care needs of veterans who have a geni-
 9 tourinary service-connected disability or a condition that
 10 was incurred or aggravated in line of duty in the active
 11 military, naval, or air service, such as a spinal cord injury,
 12 that affects the veterans’ ability to reproduce.

13 “(b) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
 14 retary shall ensure that information produced by the re-
 15 search facilitated under this section that may be useful
 16 for other activities of the Veterans Health Administration
 17 is disseminated throughout the Veterans Health Adminis-
 18 tration.”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 20 at the beginning of chapter 73 of such title is amended
 21 by inserting after the item relating to section 7330B the
 22 following new item:

“7330C. Facilitation of reproduction and infertility research.”.

23 (c) REPORT.—Not later than three years after the
 24 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
 25 erans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the re-

1 search activities conducted by the Secretary under section
2 7330C of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-
3 section (a).

4 **SEC. 207. REQUIREMENT TO IMPROVE DEPARTMENT OF**
5 **VETERANS AFFAIRS WOMEN VETERANS CON-**
6 **TACT CENTER.**

7 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enhance the
8 capabilities of the women veterans contact center of the
9 Department of Veterans Affairs—

10 (1) to respond to requests by women veterans
11 for assistance with accessing health care and bene-
12 fits furnished under the laws administered by the
13 Secretary; and

14 (2) to refer such veterans to resources provided
15 by the Federal Government and the community to
16 obtain assistance with services not furnished by the
17 Department.

18 **SEC. 208. MODIFICATION OF PILOT PROGRAM ON COUN-**
19 **SELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR WOMEN**
20 **VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM SERV-**
21 **ICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

22 (a) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF LOCATIONS.—Sub-
23 section (c) of section 203 of the Caregivers and Veterans
24 Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111—

1 163; 38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended by striking “three
2 locations” and inserting “14 locations”.

3 (b) EXTENSION OF DURATION.—Subsection (d) of
4 such section is amended by striking “December 31, 2017”
5 and inserting “December 31, 2020”.

6 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sub-
7 section (f) of such section is amended by striking “Sec-
8 retary of Veterans Affairs for each” and all that follows
9 through the period at the end and inserting “Secretary
10 of Veterans Affairs to carry out the pilot program—

11 “(1) for each of fiscal years 2010, 2011, 2015,
12 2016, and 2017, \$2,000,000; and

13 “(2) for each of fiscal years 2018 through
14 2020, such sums as may be necessary.”.

15 **SEC. 209. PROGRAM ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR**
16 **CERTAIN VETERANS.**

17 (a) ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN
18 VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 17
20 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-
21 ing at the end the following new section:

22 **“§ 1709C. Assistance for child care for certain vet-**
23 **erans receiving health care**

24 “(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall
25 carry out a program to provide, subject to subsection (b),

1 assistance to qualified veterans described in subsection (c)
2 to obtain child care so that such veterans can receive
3 health care services described in subsection (c)(2).

4 “(b) LIMITATION ON PERIOD OF PAYMENTS.—As-
5 sistance may be provided to a qualified veteran under this
6 section for receipt of child care only during the period that
7 the qualified veteran—

8 “(1) receives the types of health care services
9 described in subsection (c)(2) at a facility of the De-
10 partment; and

11 “(2) requires travel to and return from such fa-
12 cility for the receipt of such health care services.

13 “(c) QUALIFIED VETERANS.—For purposes of this
14 section, a qualified veteran is a veteran who—

15 “(1) is the primary caretaker of a child or chil-
16 dren; and

17 “(2)(A) receives from the Department—

18 “(i) regular mental health care services;

19 “(ii) intensive mental health care services;

20 or

21 “(iii) such other intensive health care serv-
22 ices that the Secretary determines that provi-
23 sion of assistance to the veteran to obtain child
24 care would improve access to such health care
25 services by the veteran; or

1 “(B) is in need of regular or intensive mental
2 health care services from the Department, and but
3 for lack of child care services, would receive such
4 health care services from the Department.

5 “(d) LOCATIONS.—Not later than five years after the
6 date of the enactment of the Women Veterans and Fami-
7 lies Health Services Act of 2017, the Secretary shall carry
8 out the program at each medical center of the Depart-
9 ment.

10 “(e) FORMS OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.—(1)
11 Child care assistance under this section may include the
12 following:

13 “(A) Stipends for the payment of child care of-
14 fered by licensed child care centers (either directly
15 or through a voucher program) that shall be, to the
16 extent practicable, modeled after the Department of
17 Veterans Affairs Child Care Subsidy Program estab-
18 lished pursuant to section 630 of the Treasury and
19 General Government Appropriations Act, 2002
20 (Public Law 107–67; 115 Stat. 552).

21 “(B) Direct provision of child care at an on-site
22 facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

23 “(C) Payments to private child care agencies.

24 “(D) Collaboration with facilities or programs
25 of other Federal agencies.

1 “(E) Such other forms of assistance as the Sec-
2 retary considers appropriate.

3 “(2) In providing child care assistance under this sec-
4 tion, the child care needs of the local area shall be consid-
5 ered and the head of each medical center may select the
6 type of care that is most appropriate or feasible for such
7 medical center.

8 “(3) In the case that child care assistance under this
9 section is provided as a stipend under paragraph (1)(A),
10 such stipend shall cover the full cost of such child care.”.

11 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
12 205(e) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus
13 Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163;
14 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by striking “De-
15 cember 31, 2017” and inserting “the date of the en-
16 actment of the Women Veterans and Families
17 Health Services Act of 2017”.

18 (3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
19 tions at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is
20 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-
21 tion 1709B the following new item:

“1709C. Assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.”.

22 (b) ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN
23 VETERANS RECEIVING READJUSTMENT COUNSELING
24 AND RELATED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 17
2 of such title, as amended by subsection (a)(1), is
3 further amended by adding at the end the following
4 new section:

5 **“§ 1709D. Assistance for child care for certain vet-**
6 **erans receiving readjustment counseling**
7 **and related mental health services**

8 “(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall
9 carry out a program to provide, subject to subsection (b),
10 assistance to qualified veterans described in subsection (c)
11 to obtain child care so that such veterans can receive read-
12 justment counseling and related mental health services.

13 “(b) LIMITATION ON PERIOD OF PAYMENTS.—As-
14 sistance may be provided to a qualified veteran under this
15 section for receipt of child care only during the period that
16 the qualified veteran receives readjustment counseling and
17 related health care services at a Vet Center.

18 “(c) QUALIFIED VETERANS.—For purposes of this
19 section, a qualified veteran is a veteran who—

20 “(1) is the primary caretaker of a child; and

21 “(2)(A) receives from the Department regular
22 readjustment counseling and related mental health
23 services; or

24 “(B) is in need of readjustment counseling and
25 related mental health services from the Department,

1 and but for lack of child care services, would receive
2 such counseling and services from the Department.

3 “(d) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the
4 program under this section in not fewer than three Read-
5 justment Counseling Service Regions selected by the Sec-
6 retary for purposes of the program.

7 “(e) FORMS OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.—(1)
8 Child care assistance under this section may include the
9 following:

10 “(A) Stipends for the payment of child care of-
11 fered by licensed child care centers (either directly
12 or through a voucher program) that shall be, to the
13 extent practicable, modeled after the Department of
14 Veterans Affairs Child Care Subsidy Program estab-
15 lished pursuant to section 630 of the Treasury and
16 General Government Appropriations Act, 2002
17 (Public Law 107–67; 115 Stat. 552).

18 “(B) Payments to private child care agencies.

19 “(C) Collaboration with facilities or programs
20 of other Federal agencies.

21 “(D) Such other forms of assistance as the Sec-
22 retary considers appropriate.

23 “(2) In providing child care assistance under this sec-
24 tion, the child care needs of the local area shall be consid-
25 ered and the head of each Vet Center may select the type

1 of care that is most appropriate or feasible for such Vet
2 Center.

3 “(3) In the case that child care assistance under this
4 subsection is provided as a stipend under paragraph
5 (1)(A), such stipend shall cover the full cost of such child
6 care.

7 “(f) VET CENTER DEFINED.—In this section, the
8 term ‘Vet Center’ means a center for readjustment coun-
9 seling and related mental health services for veterans
10 under section 1712A of this title.”.

11 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
12 tions at the beginning of such chapter, as amended
13 by subsection (a)(3), is further amended by inserting
14 after the item relating to section 1709C the fol-
15 lowing new item:

“1709D. Assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving readjustment
counseling and related mental health services.”.

