

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 476

To prescribe alternative payment mechanisms for the payment of annual enrollment fees for the TRICARE program of the military health care system.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 1999

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To prescribe alternative payment mechanisms for the payment of annual enrollment fees for the TRICARE program of the military health care system.

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. PAYMENT MECHANISMS FOR TRICARE EN-**  
4       **ROLLMENT FEES.**

5       (a) MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTION.—The Secretary of  
6       Defense shall permit persons who enroll in the managed  
7       health care program of the uniformed services known as  
8       the TRICARE program to pay their annual enrollment  
9       fees on a monthly basis.

1 (b) ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MECHANISMS.—In addi-  
2 tion to existing methods by which an enrollee in the  
3 TRICARE program may pay enrollment fees, the Sec-  
4 retary of Defense shall establish mechanisms to provide  
5 for payment of enrollment fees using—

6 (1) a deduction from military retired or retainer  
7 pay (or equivalent pay), in the case of a member or  
8 former member of the uniformed services entitled to  
9 such pay who is an enrollee;

10 (2) a deduction from monthly benefits under  
11 section 202 or 223 of the Social Security Act (42  
12 U.S.C. 402, 423), in the case of a person entitled to  
13 such benefits who is an enrollee; and

14 (3) an electronic funds transfer from a checking  
15 or savings account designated by the enrollee.

16 (c) COORDINATION OF DEDUCTION WITH OTHER  
17 AGENCIES.—The Secretary of Defense shall enter into an  
18 agreement with the Commissioner of Social Security and  
19 the Secretary of the Treasury to conduct the deduction  
20 mechanism authorized by subsection (b)(2) in the same  
21 manner as provided in section 1840(a) of the Social Secu-  
22 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395s(a)) for the monthly deduction  
23 of premiums for the medicare program.

24 (d) TRICARE PROGRAM DEFINED.—For purposes  
25 of this section, the term “TRICARE program” means the

1 managed health care program that is established by the  
2 Secretary of Defense under the authority of chapter 55  
3 of title 10, United States Code, principally section 1097  
4 of such title, and includes the competitive selection of con-  
5 tractors to financially underwrite the delivery of health  
6 care services under the Civilian Health and Medical Pro-  
7 gram of the Uniformed Services.

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