

## **H. Res. 526**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U.S.,***

*September 17, 2002.*

*Resolved*, That, upon the adoption of this resolution, the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 3253, with the Senate amendments thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment to the title of the bill and to have concurred in the Senate amendment to the text of the bill with the following amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill, insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Department of Vet-  
3 erans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Act of 2002”.

**4 SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF MEDICAL EMERGENCY PRE-  
5 PAREDNESS CENTERS AT DEPARTMENT OF  
6 VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter II of chapter 73  
8 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at  
9 the end the following new section:

1 **“§ 7325. Medical emergency preparedness centers**

2       “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTERS.—(1) The Sec-  
3 retary shall establish four medical emergency prepared-  
4 ness centers in accordance with this section. Each such  
5 center shall be established at a Department medical center  
6 and shall be staffed by Department employees.

7       “(2) The Under Secretary for Health shall be respon-  
8 sible for supervising the operation of the centers estab-  
9 lished under this section. The Under Secretary shall pro-  
10 vide for ongoing evaluation of the centers and their com-  
11 pliance with the requirements of this section.

12       “(3) The Under Secretary shall carry out the Under  
13 Secretary’s functions under paragraph (2) in consultation  
14 with the Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs with re-  
15 sponsibility for operations, preparedness, security, and law  
16 enforcement functions.

17       “(b) MISSION.—The mission of the centers shall be  
18 as follows:

19               “(1) To carry out research on, and to develop  
20 methods of detection, diagnosis, prevention, and  
21 treatment of injuries, diseases, and illnesses arising  
22 from the use of chemical, biological, radiological, in-  
23 cendiary or other explosive weapons or devices pos-  
24 ing threats to the public health and safety.

25               “(2) To provide education, training, and advice  
26 to health care professionals, including health care

1 professionals outside the Veterans Health Adminis-  
2 tration, through the National Disaster Medical Sys-  
3 tem established pursuant to section 2811(b) of the  
4 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b))  
5 or through interagency agreements entered into by  
6 the Secretary for that purpose.

7 “(3) In the event of a disaster or emergency re-  
8 ferred to in section 1785(b) of this title, to provide  
9 such laboratory, epidemiological, medical, or other  
10 assistance as the Secretary considers appropriate to  
11 Federal, State, and local health care agencies and  
12 personnel involved in or responding to the disaster  
13 or emergency.

14 “(c) SELECTION OF CENTERS.—(1) The Secretary  
15 shall select the sites for the centers on the basis of a com-  
16 petitive selection process. The Secretary may not des-  
17 ignate a site as a location for a center under this section  
18 unless the Secretary makes a finding under paragraph (2)  
19 with respect to the proposal for the designation of such  
20 site. To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary  
21 shall ensure the geographic dispersal of the sites through-  
22 out the United States. Any such center may be a consor-  
23 tium of efforts of more than one medical center.

24 “(2) A finding by the Secretary referred to in para-  
25 graph (1) with respect to a proposal for designation of

1 a site as a location of a center under this section is a find-  
2 ing by the Secretary, upon the recommendations of the  
3 Under Secretary for Health and the Assistant Secretary  
4 with responsibility for operations, preparedness, security,  
5 and law enforcement functions, that the facility or facili-  
6 ties submitting the proposal have developed (or may rea-  
7 sonably be anticipated to develop) each of the following:

8           “(A) An arrangement with a qualifying medical  
9           school and a qualifying school of public health (or a  
10          consortium of such schools) under which physicians  
11          and other persons in the health field receive edu-  
12          cation and training through the participating De-  
13          partment medical facilities so as to provide those  
14          persons with training in the detection, diagnosis,  
15          prevention, and treatment of injuries, diseases, and  
16          illnesses induced by exposures to chemical and bio-  
17          logical substances, radiation, and incendiary or other  
18          explosive weapons or devices.

19          “(B) An arrangement with a graduate school  
20          specializing in epidemiology under which students  
21          receive education and training in epidemiology  
22          through the participating Department facilities so as  
23          to provide such students with training in the epide-  
24          miology of contagious and infectious diseases and

1 chemical and radiation poisoning in an exposed pop-  
2 ulation.

3 “(C) An arrangement under which nursing, so-  
4 cial work, counseling, or allied health personnel and  
5 students receive training and education in recog-  
6 nizing and caring for conditions associated with ex-  
7 posures to toxins through the participating Depart-  
8 ment facilities.

9 “(D) The ability to attract scientists who have  
10 made significant contributions to the development of  
11 innovative approaches to the detection, diagnosis,  
12 prevention, or treatment of injuries, diseases, and ill-  
13 nesses arising from the use of chemical, biological,  
14 radiological, incendiary or other explosive weapons  
15 or devices posing threats to the public health and  
16 safety.

17 “(3) For purposes of paragraph (2)(A)—

18 “(A) a qualifying medical school is an accred-  
19 ited medical school that provides education and  
20 training in toxicology and environmental health haz-  
21 ards and with which one or more of the participating  
22 Department medical centers is affiliated; and

23 “(B) a qualifying school of public health is an  
24 accredited school of public health that provides edu-  
25 cation and training in toxicology and environmental

1 health hazards and with which one or more of the  
2 participating Department medical centers is affili-  
3 ated.

4 “(d) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—Each center shall con-  
5 duct research on improved medical preparedness to protect  
6 the Nation from threats in the area of that center’s exper-  
7 tise. Each center may seek research funds from public and  
8 private sources for such purpose.

9 “(e) DISSEMINATION OF RESEARCH PRODUCTS.—(1)  
10 The Under Secretary for Health and the Assistant Sec-  
11 retary with responsibility for operations, preparedness, se-  
12 curity, and law enforcement functions shall ensure that  
13 information produced by the research, education and  
14 training, and clinical activities of centers established under  
15 this section is made available, as appropriate, to health-  
16 care providers in the United States. Dissemination of such  
17 information shall be made through publications, through  
18 programs of continuing medical and related education pro-  
19 vided through regional medical education centers under  
20 subchapter VI of chapter 74 of this title, and through  
21 other means. Such programs of continuing medical edu-  
22 cation shall receive priority in the award of funding.

23 “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that the work of the  
24 centers is conducted in close coordination with other Fed-  
25 eral departments and agencies and that research products

1 or other information of the centers shall be coordinated  
2 and shared with other Federal departments and agencies.

3 “(f) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary  
4 shall take appropriate actions to ensure that the work of  
5 each center is carried out—

6 “(1) in close coordination with the Department  
7 of Defense, the Department of Health and Human  
8 Services, and other departments, agencies, and ele-  
9 ments of the Government charged with coordination  
10 of plans for United States homeland security; and

11 “(2) after taking into consideration applicable  
12 recommendations of the working group on the pre-  
13 vention, preparedness, and response to bioterrorism  
14 and other public health emergencies established  
15 under section 319F(a) of the Public Health Service  
16 Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–6(a)) or any other joint inter-  
17 agency advisory group or committee designated by  
18 the President or the President’s designee to coordi-  
19 nate Federal research on weapons of mass destruc-  
20 tion.

21 “(g) ASSISTANCE TO OTHER AGENCIES.—The Sec-  
22 retary may provide assistance requested by appropriate  
23 Federal, State, and local civil and criminal authorities in  
24 investigations, inquiries, and data analyses as necessary

1 to protect the public safety and prevent or obviate biologi-  
2 cal, chemical, or radiological threats.

3 “(h) DETAIL OF EMPLOYEES FROM OTHER AGEN-  
4 CIES.—Upon approval by the Secretary, the Director of  
5 a center may request the temporary assignment or detail  
6 to the center, on a nonreimbursable basis, of employees  
7 from other departments and agencies of the United States  
8 who have expertise that would further the mission of the  
9 center. Any such employee may be so assigned or detailed  
10 on a nonreimbursable basis pursuant to such a request.

11 “(i) FUNDING.—(1) Amounts appropriated for the  
12 activities of the centers under this section shall be appro-  
13 priated separately from amounts appropriated for the De-  
14 partment for medical care.

15 “(2) In addition to funds appropriated for a fiscal  
16 year specifically for the activities of the centers pursuant  
17 to paragraph (1), the Under Secretary for Health shall  
18 allocate to such centers from other funds appropriated for  
19 that fiscal year generally for the Department medical care  
20 account and the Department medical and prosthetics re-  
21 search account such amounts as the Under Secretary de-  
22 termines appropriate to carry out the purposes of this sec-  
23 tion. Any determination by the Under Secretary under the  
24 preceding sentence shall be made in consultation with the



1 Assistant Secretary with responsibility for operations, pre-  
2 paredness, security, and law enforcement functions.

3 “(3) There are authorized to be appropriated for the  
4 centers under this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal  
5 years 2003 through 2007.”.

6 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such  
7 chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating  
8 to section 7324 the following new item:

“7325. Medical emergency preparedness centers.”.

9 (b) PEER REVIEW FOR DESIGNATION OF CEN-  
10 TERS.—(1) In order to assist the Secretary of Veterans  
11 Affairs and the Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for  
12 Health in selecting sites for centers under section 7325  
13 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection  
14 (a), the Under Secretary shall establish a peer review  
15 panel to assess the scientific and clinical merit of pro-  
16 posals that are submitted to the Secretary for the designa-  
17 tion of such centers. The peer review panel shall be estab-  
18 lished in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Vet-  
19 erans Affairs with responsibility for operations, prepared-  
20 ness, security, and law enforcement functions.

21 (2) The peer review panel shall include experts in the  
22 fields of toxicological research, infectious diseases, radi-  
23 ology, clinical care of patients exposed to such hazards,  
24 and other persons as determined appropriate by the Sec-

1 retary. Members of the panel shall serve as consultants  
2 to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

3       (3) The panel shall review each proposal submitted  
4 to the panel by the officials referred to in paragraph (1)  
5 and shall submit to the Under Secretary for Health its  
6 views on the relative scientific and clinical merit of each  
7 such proposal. The panel shall specifically determine with  
8 respect to each such proposal whether that proposal is  
9 among those proposals which have met the highest com-  
10 petitive standards of scientific and clinical merit.

11       (4) The panel shall not be subject to the Federal Ad-  
12 visory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

13 **SEC. 3. EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ON MED-**  
14 **ICAL RESPONSES TO CONSEQUENCES OF**  
15 **TERRORIST ACTIVITIES.**

16       (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter II of chapter 73  
17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding  
18 after section 7325, as added by section 2(a)(1), the fol-  
19 lowing new section:

20 **“§ 7326. Education and training programs on medical**  
21 **response to consequences of terrorist ac-**  
22 **tivities**

23       “(a) EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall  
24 carry out a program to develop and disseminate a series

1 of model education and training programs on the medical  
2 responses to the consequences of terrorist activities.

3 “(b) IMPLEMENTING OFFICIAL.—The program shall  
4 be carried out through the Under Secretary for Health,  
5 in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of Veterans  
6 Affairs with responsibility for operations, preparedness,  
7 security, and law enforcement functions.

8 “(c) CONTENT OF PROGRAMS.—The education and  
9 training programs developed under the program shall be  
10 modelled after programs established at the F. Edward  
11 Hébert School of Medicine of the Uniformed Services Uni-  
12 versity of the Health Sciences and shall include, at a min-  
13 imum, training for health care professionals in the fol-  
14 lowing:

15 “(1) Recognition of chemical, biological, radio-  
16 logical, incendiary, or other explosive agents, weap-  
17 ons, or devices that may be used in terrorist activi-  
18 ties.

19 “(2) Identification of the potential symptoms of  
20 exposure to those agents.

21 “(3) Understanding of the potential long-term  
22 health consequences, including psychological effects,  
23 resulting from exposure to those agents, weapons, or  
24 devices.

1           “(4) Emergency treatment for exposure to  
2           those agents, weapons, or devices.

3           “(5) An appropriate course of followup treat-  
4           ment, supportive care, and referral.

5           “(6) Actions that can be taken while providing  
6           care for exposure to those agents, weapons, or de-  
7           vices to protect against contamination, injury, or  
8           other hazards from such exposure.

9           “(7) Information on how to seek consultative  
10          support and to report suspected or actual use of  
11          those agents.

12          “(d) POTENTIAL TRAINEES.—In designing the edu-  
13          cation and training programs under this section, the Sec-  
14          retary shall ensure that different programs are designed  
15          for health-care professionals in Department medical cen-  
16          ters. The programs shall be designed to be disseminated  
17          to health professions students, graduate health and med-  
18          ical education trainees, and health practitioners in a vari-  
19          ety of fields.

20          “(e) CONSULTATION.—In establishing education and  
21          training programs under this section, the Secretary shall  
22          consult with appropriate representatives of accrediting,  
23          certifying, and coordinating organizations in the field of  
24          health professions education.”.

1       (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such  
 2 chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating  
 3 to section 7325, as added by section 2(a)(2), the following  
 4 new item:

“7326. Education and training programs on medical response to consequences  
 of terrorist activities.”.

5       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary of Veterans  
 6 Affairs shall implement section 7326 of title 38, United  
 7 States Code, as added by subsection (a), not later than  
 8 the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of the  
 9 enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 4. AUTHORITY TO FURNISH HEALTH CARE DURING**  
 11 **MAJOR DISASTERS AND MEDICAL EMER-**  
 12 **GENCIES.**

13       (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter VIII of chapter 17  
 14 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at  
 15 the end the following new section:

16 **“§ 1785. Care and services during certain disasters**  
 17 **and emergencies**

18       “(a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE HOSPITAL CARE AND  
 19 MEDICAL SERVICES.—During and immediately following  
 20 a disaster or emergency referred to in subsection (b), the  
 21 Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services  
 22 to individuals responding to, involved in, or otherwise af-  
 23 fected by that disaster or emergency.

1       “(b) COVERED DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES.—A  
2 disaster or emergency referred to in this subsection is any  
3 disaster or emergency as follows:

4           “(1) A major disaster or emergency declared by  
5 the President under the Robert B. Stafford Disaster  
6 Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
7 5121 et seq.).

8           “(2) A disaster or emergency in which the Na-  
9 tional Disaster Medical System established pursuant  
10 to section 2811(b) of the Public Health Service Act  
11 (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b)) is activated by the Sec-  
12 retary of Health and Human Services under para-  
13 graph (3)(A) of that section or as otherwise author-  
14 ized by law.

15       “(c) APPLICABILITY TO ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS WHO  
16 ARE VETERANS.—The Secretary may furnish care and  
17 services under this section to an individual described in  
18 subsection (a) who is a veteran without regard to whether  
19 that individual is enrolled in the system of patient enroll-  
20 ment under section 1705 of this title.

21       “(d) REIMBURSEMENT FROM OTHER FEDERAL DE-  
22 PARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—(1) The cost of any care or  
23 services furnished under this section to an officer or em-  
24 ployee of a department or agency of the United States  
25 other than the Department or to a member of the Armed

1 Forces shall be reimbursed at such rates as may be agreed  
 2 upon by the Secretary and the head of such department  
 3 or agency or the Secretary concerned, in the case of a  
 4 member of the Armed Forces, based on the cost of the  
 5 care or service furnished.

6 “(2) Amounts received by the Department under this  
 7 subsection shall be credited to the Medical Care Collec-  
 8 tions Fund under section 1729A of this title.

9 “(e) REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—  
 10 Within 60 days of the commencement of a disaster or  
 11 emergency referred to in subsection (b) in which the Sec-  
 12 retary furnishes care and services under this section (or  
 13 as soon thereafter as is practicable), the Secretary shall  
 14 submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-  
 15 ate and the House of Representatives a report on the Sec-  
 16 retary’s allocation of facilities and personnel in order to  
 17 furnish such care and services.

18 “(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe  
 19 regulations governing the exercise of the authority of the  
 20 Secretary under this section.”.

21 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of that  
 22 chapter is amended by adding at the end the following  
 23 new item:

“1785. Care and services during certain disasters and emergencies.”.

24 (b) MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES ON ACTIVE  
 25 DUTY.—Section 8111A(a) of such title is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-  
2       graph (4);

3           (2) by designating the second sentence of para-  
4       graph (1) as paragraph (3); and

5           (3) by inserting between paragraph (1) and  
6       paragraph (3), as designated by paragraph (2) of  
7       this subsection, the following new paragraph:

8       “(2)(A) During and immediately following a disaster  
9       or emergency referred to in subparagraph (B), the Sec-  
10      retary may furnish hospital care and medical services to  
11      members of the Armed Forces on active duty responding  
12      to or involved in that disaster or emergency.

13       “(B) A disaster or emergency referred to in this sub-  
14      paragraph is any disaster or emergency as follows:

15           “(i) A major disaster or emergency declared by  
16       the President under the Robert B. Stafford Disaster  
17       Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
18       5121 et seq.).

19           “(ii) A disaster or emergency in which the Na-  
20       tional Disaster Medical System established pursuant  
21       to section 2811(b) of the Public Health Service Act  
22       (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b)) is activated by the Sec-  
23       retary of Health and Human Services under para-  
24       graph (3)(A) of that section or as otherwise author-  
25       ized by law.”.



1 **SEC. 5. 10-YEAR EXTENSION OF EXPIRED AUTHORITY.**

2       Effective September 30, 2002, subsection (d) of sec-  
3 tion 1722A of title 38, United States Code, is amended  
4 by striking “September 30, 2002” and inserting “Sep-  
5 tember 30, 2012”.

6 **SEC. 6. INCREASE IN NUMBER OF ASSISTANT SECRETARIES**  
7 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

8       (a) INCREASE.—Subsection (a) of section 308 of title  
9 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “six” in  
10 the first sentence and inserting “seven”.

11       (b) FUNCTIONS.—Subsection (b) of such section is  
12 amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
13 graph:

14               “(11) Operations, preparedness, security, and  
15 law enforcement functions.”.

16       (c) NUMBER OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRE-  
17 TARIES.—Subsection (d)(1) of such section is amended by  
18 striking “18” and inserting “19”.

19       (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5315 of  
20 title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “(6)”  
21 after “Assistant Secretaries, Department of Veterans Af-  
22 fairs” and inserting “(7)”.

1 **SEC. 7. CODIFICATION OF DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF VET-**  
2 **ERANS AFFAIRS RELATING TO EMERGENCY**  
3 **PREPAREDNESS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Subchapter I of chapter 81  
5 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at  
6 the end the following new section:

7 **“§ 8117. Emergency preparedness**

8 “(a) READINESS OF DEPARTMENT MEDICAL CEN-  
9 TERS.—(1) The Secretary shall take appropriate actions  
10 to provide for the readiness of Department medical centers  
11 to protect the patients and staff of such centers from  
12 chemical or biological attack or otherwise to respond to  
13 such an attack so as to enable such centers to fulfill their  
14 obligations as part of the Federal response to public health  
15 emergencies.

16 “(2) Actions under paragraph (1) shall include—

17 “(A) the provision of decontamination equip-  
18 ment and personal protection equipment at Depart-  
19 ment medical centers; and

20 “(B) the provision of training in the use of such  
21 equipment to staff of such centers.

22 “(b) SECURITY AT DEPARTMENT MEDICAL AND RE-  
23 SEARCH FACILITIES.—(1) The Secretary shall take appro-  
24 priate actions to provide for the security of Department  
25 medical centers and research facilities, including staff and  
26 patients at such centers and facilities.

1       “(2) In taking actions under paragraph (1), the Sec-  
2       retary shall take into account the results of the evaluation  
3       of the security needs at Department medical centers and  
4       research facilities required by section 154(b)(1) of the  
5       Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness  
6       and Response Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–188; 116  
7       Stat. 631), including the results of such evaluation relat-  
8       ing to the following needs:

9               “(A) Needs for the protection of patients and  
10       medical staff during emergencies, including a chem-  
11       ical or biological attack or other terrorist attack.

12              “(B) Needs, if any, for screening personnel en-  
13       gaged in research relating to biological pathogens or  
14       agents, including work associated with such re-  
15       search.

16              “(C) Needs for securing laboratories or other  
17       facilities engaged in research relating to biological  
18       pathogens or agents.

19       “(c) TRACKING OF PHARMACEUTICALS AND MED-  
20       ICAL SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT.—The Secretary shall  
21       develop and maintain a centralized system for tracking the  
22       current location and availability of pharmaceuticals, med-  
23       ical supplies, and medical equipment throughout the De-  
24       partment health care system in order to permit the ready  
25       identification and utilization of such pharmaceuticals, sup-

plies, and equipment for a variety of purposes, including response to a chemical or biological attack or other terrorist attack.

“(d) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Department medical centers, in consultation with the accredited medical school affiliates of such medical centers, develop and implement curricula to train resident physicians and health care personnel in medical matters relating to biological, chemical, or radiological attacks or attacks from an incendiary or other explosive weapon.

“(e) PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL DISASTER MEDICAL SYSTEM.—(1) The Secretary shall establish and maintain a training program to facilitate the participation of the staff of Department medical centers, and of the community partners of such centers, in the National Disaster Medical System established pursuant to section 2811(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh–11(b)).

“(2) The Secretary shall establish and maintain the training program under paragraph (1) in accordance with the recommendations of the working group on the prevention, preparedness, and response to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies established under section 319F(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–6(a)).

1       “(3) The Secretary shall establish and maintain the  
2 training program under paragraph (1) in consultation  
3 with the following:

4               “(A) The Secretary of Defense.

5               “(B) The Secretary of Health and Human  
6 Services.

7               “(C) The Director of the Federal Emergency  
8 Management Agency.

9       “(f) MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING.—(1) With re-  
10 spect to activities conducted by personnel serving at De-  
11 partment medical centers, the Secretary shall develop and  
12 maintain various strategies for providing mental health  
13 counseling and assistance, including counseling and assist-  
14 ance for post-traumatic stress disorder, following a bioter-  
15 rorist attack or other public health emergency to the fol-  
16 lowing persons:

17               “(A) Veterans.

18               “(B) Local and community emergency response  
19 providers.

20               “(C) Active duty military personnel.

21               “(D) Individuals seeking care at Department  
22 medical centers.

23       “(2) The strategies under paragraph (1) shall include  
24 the following:

1           “(A) Training and certification of providers of  
2           mental health counseling and assistance.

3           “(B) Mechanisms for coordinating the provision  
4           of mental health counseling and assistance to emer-  
5           gency response providers referred to in paragraph  
6           (1).

7           “(3) The Secretary shall develop and maintain the  
8           strategies under paragraph (1) in consultation with the  
9           Secretary of Health and Human Services, the American  
10          Red Cross, and the working group referred to in sub-  
11          section (e)(2).”.

12          (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such  
13          chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating  
14          to section 8116 the following new item:

          “8117. Emergency preparedness.”.

15          (b) REPEAL OF CODIFIED PROVISIONS.—Subsections  
16          (a), (b)(2), (c), (d), (e), and (f) of section 154 of the Pub-  
17          lic Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and  
18          Response Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–188; 38 U.S.C.  
19          note prec. 8101) are repealed.

20          (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Subsection (g) of  
21          such section is amended—

22                  (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “of section  
23                  8117 of title 38, United States Code” after “sub-  
24                  section (a)”;

1           (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “subsections  
2       (b) through (f)” and inserting “subsection (b)(1) of  
3       this section and subsections (b) through (f) of sec-  
4       tion 8117 of title 38, United States Code”.

Attest:

*Clerk.*