

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2318

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2003

Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FROST, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. HONDA, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. REYES, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. STUPAK, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. GRIJALVA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care.

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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Assured Funding for
5 Veterans Health Care Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. ASSURANCE OF ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR VET-**
7 **ERANS HEALTH CARE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United
9 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing new section:

11 **“§ 320. Assured funding for veterans health care**

12 “(a) For each fiscal year, the Secretary of the Treas-
13 ury shall make available to the Secretary of Veterans Af-
14 fairs the amount determined under subsection (b) with re-
15 spect to that fiscal year. Each such amount is available,
16 without fiscal year limitation, for the programs, functions,
17 and activities of the Veterans Health Administration, as
18 specified in subsection (c).

19 “(b)(1) The amount applicable to fiscal year 2005
20 under this subsection is the amount equal to 130 percent
21 of the amount obligated by the Department during fiscal
22 year 2003 for the purposes specified in subsection (c).

23 “(2) The amount applicable to any fiscal year after
24 fiscal year 2005 under this subsection is the amount equal
25 to the product of the following:

1 “(A) The sum of—

2 “(i) the number of veterans enrolled in the
3 Department health care system under section
4 1705 of this title as of July 1 preceding the be-
5 ginning of such fiscal year; and

6 “(ii) the number of persons eligible for
7 health care under chapter 17 of this title who
8 are not covered by clause (i) and who were pro-
9 vided hospital care or medical services under
10 such chapter at any time during the fiscal year
11 preceding such fiscal year.

12 “(B) The per capita baseline amount, as in-
13 creased from time to time pursuant to paragraph
14 (3)(B).

15 “(3)(A) For purposes of paragraph (2)(B), the term
16 ‘per capita baseline amount’ means the amount equal to—

17 “(i) the amount specified in paragraph (1), di-
18 vided by

19 “(ii) the number of veterans enrolled in the De-
20 partment health care system under section 1705 of
21 this title as of September 30, 2003.

22 “(B) With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary
23 shall provide a percentage increase (rounded to the near-
24 est dollar) in the per capita baseline amount equal to the
25 percentage by which—

1 “(i) the Consumer Price Index (all Urban Con-
2 sumers, United States City Average, Hospital and
3 related services, Seasonally Adjusted), published by
4 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of
5 Labor for the 12-month period ending on the June
6 30 preceding the beginning of the fiscal year for
7 which the increase is made, exceeds

8 “(ii) such Consumer Price Index for the 12-
9 month period preceeding the 12-month period de-
10 scribed in clause (i).

11 “(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the pur-
12 poses for which amounts made available pursuant to sub-
13 section (a) shall be all programs, functions, and activities
14 of the Veterans Health Administration.

15 “(2) Amounts made available pursuant to subsection
16 (a) are not available for—

17 “(A) construction, acquisition, or alteration of
18 medical facilities as provided in subchapter I of
19 chapter 81 of this title (other than for such repairs
20 as were provided for before the the date of the en-
21 actment of this section through the Medical Care ap-
22 propriation for the Department); or

23 “(B) grants under subchapter III of chapter 81
24 of this title.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
3 at the end the following new item:

“320. Assured funding for veterans health care.”.

○