

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3476

To require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services and benefits as part of the TRICARE program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 7, 2003

Mr. SCHROCK (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FROST, Mr. FILNER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. ENGLISH, and Mr. KILDEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to develop and implement a plan to provide chiropractic health care services and benefits as part of the TRICARE program.

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 “Chiropractic Health  
5 Parity for Military Retirees and Dependents Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHIROPRACTIC HEALTH CARE FOR RETIREES, DE-**  
2 **PENDENTS, AND SURVIVORS.**

3 (a) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—Not later than July 31, 2004,  
4 the Secretary of Defense shall complete development of a  
5 plan to provide chiropractic health care services and bene-  
6 fits, as a permanent part of the TRICARE program, for  
7 covered beneficiaries.

8 (b) **CONTENTS OF PLAN.**—The plan shall require  
9 that a contract entered into under section 1097 of title  
10 10, United States Code, for the delivery of health care  
11 services shall—

12 (1) include the delivery of chiropractic services;

13 (2) require that chiropractic services may be  
14 provided only by a doctor of chiropractic; and

15 (3) provide that a covered beneficiary may se-  
16 lect and have direct access to a doctor of chiro-  
17 practic without referral by another health practi-  
18 tioner.

19 (c) **IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN.**—The plan developed  
20 under subsection (a) shall provide for implementation of  
21 the plan to begin no later than December 31, 2004.

22 (d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

23 (1) The term “chiropractic services”—

24 (A) includes the diagnosis (including by di-  
25 agnostic X-ray tests), correction, and manage-  
26 ment of vertebral subluxations or neuro-

1           musculoskeletal conditions, and such other  
2           chiropractic services determined appropriate by  
3           the Secretary; and

4                   (B) does not include the use of drugs or  
5           surgery.

6           (2) The term “covered beneficiary” has the  
7           meaning provided by section 1072(5) of title 10,  
8           United States Code.

9           (3) The term “doctor of chiropractic” includes  
10          only a doctor of chiropractic who is licensed as such  
11          by the State in which chiropractic services are fur-  
12          nished.

13          (4) The term “TRICARE program” has the  
14          meaning provided by section 1072(7) of title 10,  
15          United States Code.

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