

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 548

To improve mental health programs for veterans, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 6, 2003

Mr. ROCKEFELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To improve mental health programs for veterans, 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. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR COUNSELING**  
4                       **AND TREATMENT OF VETERANS FOR SEXUAL**  
5                       **TRAUMA.**

6       Section 1720D of title 38, United States Code, is  
7       amended—

8               (1) in subsection (a)—

9                       (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “During  
10                      the period through December 31, 2004, the  
11                      Secretary” and inserting “The Secretary”; and

1 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “, during  
 2 the period through December 31, 2004,”; and  
 3 (2) in subsection (b)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “estab-  
 5 lishment and”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “estab-  
 7 lishing a program” and inserting “operating a  
 8 program”.

9 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO OPERATE ADDITIONAL DEPART-**  
 10 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CENTERS FOR**  
 11 **MENTAL ILLNESS RESEARCH, EDUCATION,**  
 12 **AND CLINICAL ACTIVITIES.**

13 Section 7320(b)(3) of title 38, United States Code,  
 14 is amended by striking “five centers” and inserting “15  
 15 centers”.

16 **SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENT OF PROGRAM FOR PROVISION OF**  
 17 **SPECIALIZED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO**  
 18 **VETERANS.**

19 (a) INCREASE IN FUNDING.—Subsection (c) of sec-  
 20 tion 116 of the Veterans Millennium Health Care and  
 21 Benefits Act (Public Law 106–117; 113 Stat. 1559; 38  
 22 U.S.C. 1712A note) is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking  
 24 “\$15,000,000” and inserting “\$25,000,000 in each  
 25 of fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006”;

1           (2) in paragraph (2), by striking  
2           “\$15,000,000” and inserting “\$25,000,000”; and  
3           (3) in paragraph (3)—

4                   (A) by inserting “(A)” after “(3)”; and

5                   (B) by adding at the end the following new  
6           subparagraph:

7           “(B) For purposes of this paragraph, in fiscal years  
8   2004, 2005, and 2006, the fiscal year utilized to determine  
9   the baseline amount shall be fiscal year 2003.”.

10          (b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Subsection (d) of that  
11   section is amended—

12               (1) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting  
13               “(1) In each of fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006,  
14               the Secretary”; and

15               (2) by adding at the end the following new  
16           paragraphs:

17           “(2) In allocating funds to facilities in a fiscal year  
18   under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that—

19                   “(A) not less than \$10,000,000 is allocated by  
20           direct grants to programs that are identified by the  
21           Mental Health Strategic Health Care Group and the  
22           Committee on Care of Severely Chronically Mentally  
23           Ill Veterans;

24                   “(B) not less than \$5,000,000 is allocated for  
25           programs on post-traumatic stress disorder; and

1           “(C) not less than \$5,000,000 is allocated for  
2       programs on substance abuse disorder.

3       “(3) The Secretary shall provide that the funds to  
4 be allocated under this section during each of fiscal years  
5 2004, 2005, and 2006 are funds for a special purpose pro-  
6 gram for which funds are not allocated through the Vet-  
7 erans Equitable Resource Allocation system.”.

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