

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3312

To amend title 38, United States Code, to terminate the administrative freeze on the enrollment into the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs of veterans in the lowest priority category for enrollment (referred to as “Priority 8”).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. HOLT, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. STUPAK, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. WU, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BERRY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to terminate the administrative freeze on the enrollment into the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs of veterans in the lowest priority category for enrollment (referred to as “Priority 8”).

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Honor Our Commit-
3 ment to Veterans Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) Over 360,000 veterans have been barred
7 from receiving health care provided by the Depart-
8 ment of Veterans Affairs as a result of a freeze on
9 the enrollment of veterans who are in the lowest pri-
10 ority category for enrollment (referred to as “Pri-
11 ority 8”).

12 (2) Veterans with incomes as low as \$25,800
13 have been barred from receiving health care from
14 the Department of Veterans Affairs by reason of the
15 freeze.

16 (3) Hundreds of thousands of veterans are re-
17 turning home, or will return home, from Afghani-
18 stan and Iraq and may be denied needed long-term
19 benefits due to the freeze.

20 (4) Over the next 20 years, approximately
21 847,000 veterans will be barred from receiving
22 health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs
23 if the freeze is allowed to continue.

24 (5) The average veteran whose benefits are fro-
25 zen is 62.8 years old and is entering a time in life
26 when health benefits are needed most.

1 **SEC. 3. TERMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE FREEZE ON EN-**
2 **ROLLMENT IN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM OF THE**
3 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 Section 1705 of title 38, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
6 section:

7 “(d) The Secretary shall administer the health care
8 enrollment system under this section so as to enroll any
9 veteran who is eligible under this section for such enroll-
10 ment and who applies for such enrollment.”.

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