

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4012

To establish a grant program to provide Native American veterans with language resources to facilitate access to medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 30, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To establish a grant program to provide Native American veterans with language resources to facilitate access to medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Native American Vet-
5 erans Language Assistance Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS LANGUAGE ASSIST-**
2 **ANCE GRANT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of the Depart-
4 ment of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a program to
5 make competitive grants to eligible entities in accordance
6 with this section. The purpose of such grants is to improve
7 access to, delivery of, and follow-up of medical services
8 provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to Native
9 American veterans who speak native languages by pro-
10 viding interpreters or other language resources.

11 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this section,
12 the term “eligible entity” means any medical facility of
13 the Department of Veterans Affairs.

14 (c) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a grant
15 under this section shall be determined by the Secretary,
16 but may not exceed \$100,000.

17 (d) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—An eligible entity re-
18 ceiving a grant under this section may use the grant to
19 provide interpreters or other language tools to assist Na-
20 tive American veterans who speak native languages with
21 access to, delivery of, and follow-up of medical services
22 provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

23 (e) COMPETITION FOR GRANT.—An eligible entity
24 seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-
25 retary an application for the grant. The application shall
26 be in such form and shall contain such information as the

1 Secretary may require. From the applications submitted,
2 the Secretary shall approve those applications that the
3 Secretary determines to be the most promising in carrying
4 out the purposes of the grant program. When considering
5 such applications, the Secretary shall give priority to an
6 eligible entity serving an area with a large population of
7 Native American veterans. At the Secretary's discretion,
8 an eligible entity may receive more than one grant during
9 any fiscal year and may receive grants in more than one
10 fiscal year.

11 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
13 necessary to carry out this Act for each of fiscal years
14 2008 through 2012.

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