

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 815

To provide health care benefits to veterans with a service-connected disability at non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities that receive payments under the Medicare program or the TRICARE program.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2007

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

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## A BILL

To provide health care benefits to veterans with a service-connected disability at non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities that receive payments under the Medicare program or 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 “Veterans Health Care  
5       Empowerment Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. HEALTH CARE BENEFITS FOR VETERANS WITH A**  
 2 **SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY AT NON-**  
 3 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MED-**  
 4 **ICAL FACILITIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding chapter 17 of  
 6 title 38, United States Code, or any other provision of law,  
 7 any veteran with a service-connected disability may receive  
 8 necessary hospital care or medical services for any condi-  
 9 tion at any hospital or medical facility or from any medical  
 10 provider eligible to receive payments under—

11 (1) the Medicare program under title XVIII of  
 12 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.); or

13 (2) the TRICARE program.

14 (b) COST OF CARE AND SERVICE.—The cost of any  
 15 hospital care or medical services provided under this sec-  
 16 tion shall be borne by the United States.

17 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) The term “hospital care” has the meaning  
 19 given such term in section 1701(5) of title 38,  
 20 United States Code.

21 (2) The term “medical services” has the mean-  
 22 ing given such term in section 1701(6) of title 38,  
 23 United States Code.

24 (3) The term “service-connected” has the  
 25 meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38,  
 26 United States Code.

1           (4) The term “TRICARE program” has the  
2           meaning given such term in section 1072(7) of title  
3           10, United States Code.

4           (d) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have effect  
5           on September 30, 2009.

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