

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1036

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the position of Director of Physical Therapy Service within the Veterans Health Administration and to establish a fellowship program for physical therapists in the areas of geriatrics, amputee rehabilitation, polytrauma care, and rehabilitation research.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2009

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN (for herself, Mr. HARE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. SESTAK, and Mr. FILNER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the position of Director of Physical Therapy Service within the Veterans Health Administration and to establish a fellowship program for physical therapists in the areas of geriatrics, amputee rehabilitation, polytrauma care, and rehabilitation research.

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 Physical  
5       Therapy Services Improvement Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDING.**

2       The Congress finds that chronic conditions of the  
3 aging veteran population and the complex impairments as-  
4 sociated with returning veterans from Operation Enduring  
5 Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in  
6 Iraq have increased the need to recruit and retain physical  
7 therapists in the Veterans Health Administration.

8 **SEC. 3. CREATION OF DIRECTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
9 **SERVICE.**

10       Paragraph (6) of section 7306(a) of title 38, United  
11 States Code, is amended by inserting “a Director of Phys-  
12 ical Therapy Service,” after “a Director of Podiatric Serv-  
13 ice,”.

14 **SEC. 4. QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF PHYSICAL**  
15 **THERAPISTS.**

16       Section 7402(b) of title 38, United States Code, is  
17 amended by redesignating paragraphs (10) through (14)  
18 as paragraphs (11) through (15), respectively, and by in-  
19 serting after paragraph (9) the following new paragraph:

20               “(10) PHYSICAL THERAPIST.—To be eligible to  
21 be appointed to a physical therapist position, a per-  
22 son must—

23               “(A)(i) hold the degree of doctor of phys-  
24 ical therapy or other post baccalaureate degree  
25 in physical therapy from an accredited college  
26 or university approved by the Secretary; or

1           “(ii) have completed a degree in physical  
 2           therapy from an accredited college or university  
 3           approved by the Secretary and be employed on  
 4           the date of the enactment of this paragraph by  
 5           the Administration as a physical therapist; and

6           “(B) be licensed to practice physical ther-  
 7           apy in a State.”.

8   **SEC. 5. CREATION OF A FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR PHYS-**  
 9           **ICAL THERAPISTS IN THE AREAS OF GERI-**  
 10           **ATRICS,        AMPUTEE        REHABILITATION,**  
 11           **POLYTRAUMA, AND REHABILITATION RE-**  
 12           **SEARCH.**

13       (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 76 of title 38, United  
 14       States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 15       lowing new subchapter:

16       “SUBCHAPTER VIII—FELLOWSHIPS FOR PHYS-  
 17       ICAL THERAPISTS IN GERIATRICS, AMPU-  
 18       TEE REHABILITATION, POLYTRAUMA CARE,  
 19       AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH

20       **“§ 7691. Authority for program**

21       “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is hereby established a  
 22       program to be known as the Department of Veterans Af-  
 23       fairs Geriatric, Amputee, Polytrauma, and Rehabilitation  
 24       Research Fellowships Program.

1       “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of such program is to  
2 assist in the recruitment of qualified physical therapists  
3 for positions in the Veterans Health Administration spe-  
4 cializing in the areas of geriatrics, amputee rehabilitation,  
5 polytrauma care, and rehabilitation research.”.

6       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
7 at the beginning of such chapter 76 is amended by adding  
8 at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER VIII—FELLOWSHIPS FOR PHYSICAL THERAPISTS IN GERIATRICS,  
AMPUTEE REHABILITATION, POLYTRAUMA CARE, AND REHABILITATION RE-  
SEARCH

“Sec. 7691. Authority for program.”.

