

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1544

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for unlimited eligibility for health care for mental illnesses for veterans of combat service during certain periods of hostilities and war.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2009

Mr. DRIEHAUS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for unlimited eligibility for health care for mental illnesses for veterans of combat service during certain periods of hostilities and war.

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 Mental
5 Health Accessibility Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. UNLIMITED ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH CARE FOR**
2 **MENTAL ILLNESSES FOR VETERANS OF COM-**
3 **BAT SERVICE DURING CERTAIN PERIODS OF**
4 **HOSTILITIES AND WAR.**

5 (a) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Section 1710(e)(1) of title 38,
6 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
7 following new subparagraph:

8 “(F) Notwithstanding paragraphs (2) and (3), a vet-
9 eran who served on active duty in a theater of combat
10 operations (as determined by the Secretary in consultation
11 with the Secretary of Defense) during World War II, the
12 Korean conflict, the Vietnam Era, the Persian Gulf War,
13 Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom,
14 or any other period of war after the Persian Gulf War,
15 or in combat against a hostile force during a period of
16 hostilities (as defined in section 1712A(a)(2)(B) of this
17 title), is eligible for hospital care, medical services, and
18 nursing home care under subsection (a)(2)(F) for any
19 mental illness, notwithstanding that there is insufficient
20 medical evidence to conclude that such illness is attrib-
21 utable to such service.”.

22 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Subparagraph (F) of section
23 1710(e)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as added by
24 subsection (a), shall apply with respect to hospital care,

- 1 medical services, and nursing home care provided on or
- 2 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

