

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3522

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide grants and assistance to States to conduct outreach to veterans regarding hardship and priority under the Department of Veterans Affairs patient enrollment system.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2009

Mr. SPACE (for himself and Mr. RYAN of Ohio) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide grants and assistance to States to conduct outreach to veterans regarding hardship and priority under the Department of Veterans Affairs patient enrollment system.

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 Hardship
5 Outreach for Priority Eights (HOPE) Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OUTREACH TO VETERANS REGARDING HARDSHIP**
2 **AND PRIORITY UNDER DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
3 **ERANS AFFAIRS PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYS-**
4 **TEM.**

5 (a) ASSISTANCE PROVIDED.—The Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs shall provide grants and other assistance to
7 States for the purpose of providing outreach to veterans
8 who may be able to apply for a change in priority under
9 the patient enrollment system maintained by the Secretary
10 under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code, due
11 to hardship.

12 (b) PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN STATES.—In providing
13 grants and assistance under subsection (a), the Secretary
14 shall give priority to States with—

- 15 (1) veteran populations of at least 500,000; and
16 (2) unemployment rates that exceed the na-
17 tional average unemployment rate.

18 (c) LIMITATION.—For any fiscal year, not more than
19 20 percent of the amount of the funds made available for
20 the provision of grants and assistance under subsection
21 (a) shall be provided to any one State.

22 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act
24 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
25 2010 through 2014.