

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4949

To establish within the Office of the Secretary of Defense an office responsible for implementing all recommendations and requirements regarding military medical facilities in the National Capital Region, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2010

Mrs. DAVIS of California (for herself, Mr. ORTIZ, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To establish within the Office of the Secretary of Defense an office responsible for implementing all recommendations and requirements regarding military medical facilities in the National Capital Region, and for other purposes.

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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “World Class Military Medical Facilities Act”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
7 ings:

1 (1) The Department of Defense lacks a com-
2 plete plan for the entirety of facilities at the new
3 Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in
4 Bethesda, Maryland.

5 (2) The Department of Defense has not estab-
6 lished an integrated operating structure, has not
7 provided clear and appropriate budget authorities,
8 and has not designed either joint military or civilian
9 personnel structures to staff the new Walter Reed
10 National Military Medical Center.

11 (3) There are differing standards and levels of
12 construction and funding that could result in a facil-
13 ity that is not in totality a world class military med-
14 ical facility.

15 (4) The Department of Defense lacks a unified
16 construction standard for military construction and
17 repairs to military medical facilities.

18 (5) In the report referred to in section 8(2), the
19 National Capital Region Base Realignment and Clo-
20 sure Health Systems Advisory Subcommittee of the
21 Defense Health Board identified numerous defi-
22 ciencies in the current plan for the new Walter Reed
23 National Military Medical Center.

1 **SEC. 2. DISESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT TASK FORCE NA-**
2 **TIONAL CAPITAL REGION MEDICAL.**

3 Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment
4 of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall disestablish the
5 organization known as Joint Task Force National Capital
6 Region Medical. Upon such disestablishment, all per-
7 sonnel, property, and functions of the Joint Task Force
8 National Capital Region Medical shall be transferred back
9 to the military department from which the personnel,
10 property, or functions were transferred or to the Office
11 of the Secretary of Defense.

12 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR IM-**
13 **PLEMENTING NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**
14 **MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES REC-**
15 **OMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than June 1, 2010,
17 the Secretary of Defense shall establish within the Office
18 of the Secretary of Defense an office responsible for imple-
19 menting all recommendations and requirements regarding
20 military medical facilities in the National Capital Region
21 contained in—

22 (1) the report of the Defense Base Closure and
23 Realignment Commission transmitted to Congress
24 on September 15, 2005, under section 2903(e) of
25 the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of

1 1990 (part A of title XXIX of Public Law 101–510;
2 10 U.S.C. 2687 note);

3 (2) section 2714 of the National Defense Au-
4 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law
5 111–84; 123 Stat. 2656); or

6 (3) any other provision of law.

7 (b) ORGANIZATION.—

8 (1) DIRECTOR.—The director of the office shall
9 be the Deputy Secretary of Defense. The responsibil-
10 ities of the director may not be delegated to another
11 individual, office, command, field agency, or field ac-
12 tivity.

13 (2) DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—The deputy director
14 of the office shall be the Assistant Secretary of De-
15 fense for Health Affairs. The responsibilities of the
16 deputy director may not be delegated to another in-
17 dividual, office, command, field agency, or field ac-
18 tivity.

19 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES.—

20 (1) MISSIONS.—The office shall define the med-
21 ical missions and responsibilities of the Office of the
22 Secretary of Defense and the military departments
23 in the National Capital Region.

24 (2) BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY.—

25 The office shall retain overall budget and operational

1 authority to provide and operate world class military
2 medical facilities in the National Capital Region.
3 This authority includes the development of budgets,
4 prioritization of requirements, and the allocation of
5 funds to provide and operate world class military
6 medical facilities.

7 (3) PERSONNEL.—The office, in consultation
8 with the Secretaries of the military departments,
9 shall specify personnel authorizations and personnel
10 systems required to provide and operate world class
11 military medical facilities in the National Capital
12 Region.

13 **SEC. 4. COMPLETION OF NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION**
14 **HEALTH CARE DELIVERY MASTER PLAN.**

15 Upon the establishment of the office under section
16 3, the office shall assume responsibility for the develop-
17 ment and implementation of the comprehensive master
18 plan to provide sufficient world class military medical fa-
19 cilities and an integrated system of health care delivery
20 for the National Capital Region required by section 2714
21 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
22 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2656).

1 **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIED CONSTRUCTION**
2 **STANDARD FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION**
3 **AND REPAIRS TO MILITARY MEDICAL FACILI-**
4 **TIES.**

5 Not later than June 1, 2010, the Secretary of De-
6 fense shall establish a unified construction standard for
7 military construction and repairs for military medical fa-
8 cilities that provides a single standard of care. This stand-
9 ard shall also include a size standard for operating rooms
10 and patient recovery rooms.

11 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR**
12 **IMPLEMENTATION OF UNIFIED CONSTRUCTION**
13 **STANDARD AT WALTER REED NATIONAL**
14 **MILITARY MEDICAL CENTER.**

15 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
16 retary of Defense \$400,000,000 to implement at Walter
17 Reed National Military Medical Center the unified con-
18 struction standard for military construction and repairs
19 for military medical facilities established under section 5.

20 **SEC. 7. INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANEL.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF REVIEW PANEL.—The Sec-
22 retary of Defense shall establish an advisory committee
23 to be known as the “Independent Review Panel for Mili-
24 tary Medical Care in the National Capital Region” to ad-
25 vise the Secretary regarding whether the proposed design
26 and organizational structure for military medical facilities

1 in the National Capital Region will achieve a world class
2 military medical facility.

3 (b) MEMBERS.—

4 (1) CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS.—The advisory
5 committee is constituted annually of the following:

6 (A) The chairman of the Committee on
7 Armed Services of the Senate or the chairman's
8 designee.

9 (B) Three other members of the Senate
10 designated by the Vice President or the Presi-
11 dent pro tempore of the Senate, two of whom
12 are members of the Committee on Appropria-
13 tions of the Senate.

14 (C) The chairman of the Committee on
15 Armed Services of the House of Representatives
16 or the chairman's designee.

17 (D) Four other members of the House of
18 Representatives designated by the Speaker of
19 the House of Representatives, two of whom are
20 members of the Committee on Appropriations
21 of the House of Representatives.

22 (2) OTHER MEMBERS.—The advisory committee
23 shall also include six persons designated by the
24 President who are not employees or appointed polit-
25 ical officials of the executive branch. These members

1 shall be medical facility experts, military health-care
2 professionals, representatives of premier health care
3 organizations in the United States, retired senior
4 military officers or non-commissioned officers, or pa-
5 tient representatives. Not more than two members
6 designated under this paragraph may be retired
7 members of the Armed Forces. The term of office of
8 these members shall be three years, except that the
9 President may stagger the initial terms.

10 (3) SUCCESSORS.—Any member of the advisory
11 committee whose term of office expires may continue
12 to serve until a successor is appointed. If a member
13 dies or resigns, a successor shall be appointed for
14 the unexpired portion of the term.

15 (c) MEETINGS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The advisory committee
17 shall meet not less than monthly. The committee or
18 its members may make other visits to military treat-
19 ment facilities and military headquarters in connec-
20 tion with the duties of the committee. The com-
21 mittee may call in advisers for consultation.

22 (2) COMPENSATION.—While performing duties
23 on behalf of the advisory committee, a member of
24 the committee and any adviser referred to in para-

graph (1) shall be reimbursed under Government travel regulations for necessary travel expenses.

(d) DUTIES.—The advisory committee shall review—

(1) the plans for the design and organizational structure for military medical facilities in the National Capital Region to ensure that the facilities and organizational structure will result in a world class military medical facility; and

(2) the execution of the plans and such other matters relating to military medical care in the National Capital Region as the committee considers appropriate.

(e) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the first meeting of the advisory committee, the committee shall submit to the Secretary of Defense a written report containing an assessment of military medical care in the National Capital Region and the views and recommendations of the committee to improve such care.

(2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—Not later than December 31, 2010, and December 31, 2011, the advisory committee shall submit to the Secretary of Defense a report on the findings and recommendations

1 of the committee to address any deficiencies identi-
2 fied by the committee.

3 (f) ASSESSMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later
4 than 30 days after the date of the submission of each re-
5 port under subsection (e), the Secretary of Defense shall
6 submit to the congressional defense committees a report
7 including—

8 (1) an assessment by the Secretary of the find-
9 ings and recommendations of the panel; and

10 (2) the plans of the Secretary for addressing
11 such findings and recommendations.

12 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION.—The term
15 “National Capital Region” has the meaning given
16 the term in section 2674(f) of title 10, United States
17 Code.

18 (2) WORLD CLASS MILITARY MEDICAL FACIL-
19 ITY.—The term “world class military medical facil-
20 ity” has the meaning given the term by the National
21 Capital Region Base Realignment and Closure
22 Health Systems Advisory Subcommittee of the De-
23 fense Health Board in appendix B of the report ti-
24 tled “Achieving World Class—An Independent Re-
25 view of the Design Plans for the Walter Reed Na-

1 tional Military Medical Center and the Fort Belvoir
2 Community Hospital” and published in May 2009,
3 as required by section 2721 of the Military Con-
4 struction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009
5 (division B of Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat.
6 4716).

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