

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 784

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress quarterly reports on vacancies in mental health professional positions in Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2009

Ms. TSONGAS (for herself and Mr. MICHAUD) 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 direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress quarterly reports on vacancies in mental health professional positions in Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. QUARTERLY REPORTS ON VACANCIES IN MEN-**  
2 **TAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AT**  
3 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MED-**  
4 **ICAL FACILITIES.**

5 (a) QUARTERLY REPORTS REQUIRED.—Subchapter I  
6 of chapter 74 of title 38, United States Code, is amended  
7 by adding at the end the following new section:

8 **“§ 7412. Quarterly reports on vacancies in mental**  
9 **health professional positions**

10 “(a) REPORTS REQUIRED.—(1) Not later than 30  
11 days after the last day of a fiscal quarter, the Secretary  
12 shall submit to Congress a report describing any vacancy  
13 in a mental health professional position at any medical  
14 facility of the Department. In each such report, the Sec-  
15 retary shall indicate, for each such vacancy, the Veterans  
16 Integrated Service Network to which the facility with the  
17 vacancy is assigned.

18 “(2) For purposes of this section, the term ‘mental  
19 health professional’ includes psychiatrists, psychologists,  
20 social workers, marriage and family therapists, and li-  
21 censed professional mental health counselors.

22 “(b) TERMINATION.—No report shall be required to  
23 be submitted under this section after December 31,  
24 2014.”.

25 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
26 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding

- 1 at the end of the items relating to subchapter I the fol-
- 2 lowing new item:

“7412. Quarterly reports on vacancies in mental health professional positions.”.

