

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1714

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant pilot program to provide housing to elderly homeless veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2013

Mr. PETERS of California (for himself, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. MENG, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant pilot program to provide housing to elderly homeless veterans.

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 “Shelter Our
5 Servicemembers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELDERLY HOMELESS VETERANS HOUSING GRANT**
2 **PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
4 Affairs and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-
5 ment shall jointly establish a pilot program to award
6 grants to nonprofit organizations to provide elderly home-
7 less veterans with non-transitional housing.

8 (b) ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATION.—

9 (1) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The Secre-
10 taries may award two grants under this section to
11 nonprofit organizations that provide housing to
12 homeless veterans or assist homeless veterans to find
13 housing.

14 (2) LOCATIONS.—In selecting the nonprofit or-
15 ganizations under paragraph (1), the Secretaries
16 shall ensure that such organizations operate in sepa-
17 rate geographical locations.

18 (3) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant
19 under this section, a nonprofit organization shall
20 submit to the Secretaries an application at such
21 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-
22 tion as the Secretaries may require.

23 (c) NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF GRANT.—

24 (1) NUMBER.—The Secretaries—

25 (A) may award two grants under this sec-
26 tion; and

1 (B) may not award more than one grant to
2 a single nonprofit organization.

3 (2) AMOUNT.—A grant awarded under this sec-
4 tion may not exceed \$25,000,000.

5 (d) USE OF GRANT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—A nonprofit organization
7 may use a grant awarded under this section to—

8 (A) purchase real property within a single
9 geographical area to be used to provide up to
10 200 eligible homeless veterans with non-transi-
11 tional housing; and

12 (B) refurbish or renovate such property.

13 (2) ELIGIBLE HOMELESS VETERANS.—A home-
14 less veteran is eligible for housing provided pursuant
15 to this section if the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
16 determines that the homeless veteran—

17 (A) has attained the age of 55;

18 (B) has—

19 (i) been continuously homeless for a
20 year or more; or

21 (ii) during the last three years, had at
22 least four separate, distinct, and sustained
23 periods during which the veteran lived or
24 resided on the streets, in an emergency

shelter for homeless persons, or a combination of both; and

(C) has a condition that limits the veteran's ability to work or perform activities of daily living, including conditions related to—

(i) a diagnosable substance abuse disorder;

(ii) a serious mental illness;

(iii) a developmental disability; or

(iv) a chronic physical illness or disability.

(e) CASE MANAGEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide case management for elderly homeless veterans who receive housing assistance pursuant to this section. The Secretary shall maintain a sufficient number of caseworkers to ensure that the ratio of such homeless veterans to caseworkers does not exceed 25 to 1.

(2) PROVISION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall allow the non-profit organization awarded a grant under this section to provide the case management under paragraph (1) if the non-profit organization elects to provide such case management.

1 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
2 on which the pilot grant program terminates pursuant to
3 subsection (i), the Secretaries shall submit to the Commit-
4 tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
5 resentatives a report on the pilot grant program that in-
6 cludes—

7 (1) the number of veterans served under the
8 program;

9 (2) the types of services offered under the pro-
10 gram to such veterans;

11 (3) the amount of money spent under the pro-
12 gram on each such veteran;

13 (4) a recommendation as to the feasibility and
14 advisability of continuing the program; and

15 (5) any other information the Secretaries con-
16 sider appropriate.

17 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
18 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretaries to carry
19 out this section \$50,000,000.

20 (h) HOMELESS VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
21 the term “homeless veteran” means a veteran who—

22 (1) has attained the age of 55; and

23 (2) is homeless (as that term is defined in sec-
24 tion 103(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assist-
25 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302(a))).

1 (i) TERMINATION.—The pilot grant program estab-
2 lished under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date
3 that is two years after the date on which the Secretaries
4 award a grant under such subsection.

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