

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1982

To improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 3, 2014

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REED, Mr. TESTER, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COONS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. WALSH, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. BALDWIN) introduced the following bill; which was read the first time

FEBRUARY 4, 2014

Read the second time and placed on the calendar

FEBRUARY 27, 2014

Committed to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs pursuant to section 312 of
the Congressional Budget Act

A BILL

To improve the provision of medical services and benefits
to veterans, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
 3 “Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Mili-
 4 tary Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014”.

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
 6 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.
- Sec. 3. Budgetary effects.

TITLE I—SURVIVOR AND DEPENDENT MATTERS

- Sec. 101. Extension of initial period for increased dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses with children.
- Sec. 102. Eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation, educational assistance, and housing loans for surviving spouses who remarry after age 55.
- Sec. 103. Extension of marriage delimiting date for surviving spouses of Persian Gulf War veterans to qualify for death pension.
- Sec. 104. Making effective date provision consistent with provision for benefits eligibility of a veteran’s child based upon termination of remarriage by annulment.
- Sec. 105. Expansion of Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship.
- Sec. 106. Expansion of Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program.
- Sec. 107. Benefits for children of certain Thailand service veterans born with spina bifida.
- Sec. 108. Program on assisted living for children of Vietnam veterans and certain Korea service veterans born with spina bifida.
- Sec. 109. Program on grief counseling in retreat settings for surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces who die while serving on active duty in the Armed Forces.
- Sec. 110. Program evaluation on survivors’ and dependents’ educational assistance authorities.

TITLE II—EDUCATION MATTERS

- Sec. 201. Approval of courses of education provided by public institutions of higher learning for purposes of All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program and Post-9/11 Educational Assistance conditional on in-State tuition rate for veterans.
- Sec. 202. Extension and expansion of authority for certain qualifying work-study activities for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 203. Prohibitions relating to references to GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- Sec. 204. Review of utilization of educational assistance to pursue programs of training on the job and participating employers.
- Sec. 205. Report on debt management and collection.
- Sec. 206. Restoration of prior reporting fee multipliers.

TITLE III—HEALTH CARE MATTERS

Subtitle A—Expansion and Improvements of Benefits Generally

- Sec. 301. Requirement for enrollment in patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain veterans eligible for enrollment by law but not currently permitted to enroll.
- Sec. 302. Further extension of period of eligibility for health care for veterans of combat service during certain periods of hostilities and war.
- Sec. 303. Extension to all veterans with a serious service-connected disability of eligibility for participation in family caregiver program.
- Sec. 304. Improved access to appropriate immunizations for veterans.
- Sec. 305. Expansion of provision of chiropractic care and services to veterans.
- Sec. 306. Modification of commencement date of period of service at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for eligibility for hospital care and medical services in connection with exposure to contaminated water.
- Sec. 307. Expansion of emergency treatment reimbursement for certain veterans.
- Sec. 308. Modification of determination of eligibility of veterans for treatment as a low-income family for purposes of enrollment in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 309. Extension of sunset date regarding transportation of individuals to and from facilities of Department of Veterans Affairs and requirement of report.
- Sec. 310. Coverage of costs of care for veterans at medical foster homes.
- Sec. 311. Extension and modification of pilot program on assisted living services for veterans with traumatic brain injury.
- Sec. 312. Program on health promotion for overweight and obese veterans through support of fitness center memberships.
- Sec. 313. Program on health promotion for veterans through establishment of Department of Veterans Affairs fitness facilities.

Subtitle B—Health Care Administration

- Sec. 321. Extension of Department of Veterans Affairs Health Professional Scholarship Program.
- Sec. 322. Expansion of availability of prosthetic and orthotic care for veterans.
- Sec. 323. Contracting for health care.
- Sec. 324. Limitation on expansion of dialysis pilot program.
- Sec. 325. Requirement for Department of Veterans Affairs policy on reporting cases of infectious diseases at facilities of the Department.
- Sec. 326. Independent assessment of the Veterans Integrated Service Networks and medical centers of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 327. Requirements in connection with next update of current strategic plan for Office of Rural Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 328. Report on provision of telemedicine services.
- Sec. 329. Designation of Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Subtitle C—Complementary and Alternative Medicine

- Sec. 331. Expansion of research and education on and delivery of complementary and alternative medicine to veterans.

- Sec. 332. Program on integration of complementary and alternative medicine within Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.
- Sec. 333. Studies of barriers encountered by veterans in receiving, and administrators and clinicians in providing, complementary and alternative medicine services furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 334. Program on use of wellness programs as complementary approach to mental health care for veterans and family members of veterans.

Subtitle D—Mental Health Care

- Sec. 341. Inclusion of mental health professionals in the education and training program for health personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 342. Education program and peer support program for family members and caregivers of veterans with mental health disorders.
- Sec. 343. Report on provision of mental health services for families of certain veterans at facilities of the Department.
- Sec. 344. Annual report on community mental health partnership pilot program.

Subtitle E—Dental Care Eligibility Expansion and Enhancement

- Sec. 351. Restorative dental services for veterans.
- Sec. 352. Pilot program on expansion of furnishing of dental care to all enrolled veterans.
- Sec. 353. Program on education to promote dental health in veterans.
- Sec. 354. Information on dental services for inclusion in electronic medical records under dental insurance pilot program.
- Sec. 355. Authorization of appropriations.

Subtitle F—Health Care Related to Sexual Trauma

- Sec. 361. Expansion of eligibility for sexual trauma counseling and treatment to veterans on inactive duty training.
- Sec. 362. Provision of counseling and treatment for sexual trauma by the Department of Veterans Affairs to members of the Armed Forces.
- Sec. 363. Department of Veterans Affairs screening mechanism to detect incidents of domestic abuse.
- Sec. 364. Reports on military sexual trauma and domestic abuse.

Subtitle G—Reproductive Treatment and Services

- Sec. 371. Clarification that fertility counseling and treatment are medical services which the Secretary may furnish to veterans like other medical services.
- Sec. 372. Reproductive treatment and care for spouses and surrogates of veterans.
- Sec. 373. Adoption assistance for severely wounded veterans.
- Sec. 374. Regulations on furnishing of fertility counseling and treatment and adoption assistance by Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 375. Coordination between Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense on furnishing of fertility counseling and treatment.
- Sec. 376. Facilitation of reproduction and infertility research.

- Sec. 377. Annual report on provision of fertility counseling and treatment furnished by Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 378. Program on assistance for child care for certain veterans.
- Sec. 379. Counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces.

Subtitle H—Major Medical Facility Leases

- Sec. 381. Authorization of major medical facility leases.
- Sec. 382. Budgetary treatment of Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facilities leases.

TITLE IV—EMPLOYMENT AND RELATED MATTERS

Subtitle A—Training and Other Services for Veterans Seeking Employment

- Sec. 401. Reauthorization of veterans retraining assistance program.
- Sec. 402. Extension of authority of Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses.
- Sec. 403. Extension of additional rehabilitation programs for persons who have exhausted rights to unemployment benefits under State law.
- Sec. 404. Unified employment portal for veterans.
- Sec. 405. Report on unified Government Internet portal for veterans on jobs available through the Federal Government.
- Sec. 406. Information on disability-related employment and education protections in Transition Assistance Program.

Subtitle B—Employment of Veterans and Recognition of Veteran Status With Respect to Employment Related Matters

- Sec. 411. Employment of veterans with the Federal Government.
- Sec. 412. State recognition of military experience of veterans in issuing licenses and credentials to veterans.
- Sec. 413. Grants to hire veterans as first responders.
- Sec. 414. Employment of veterans as evaluation factor in the awarding of Federal contracts.
- Sec. 415. Report on discrimination against members of reserve components of Armed Forces and veterans in civilian labor market.

Subtitle C—Program on Career Transition

- Sec. 421. Program on provision of career transition services to young veterans.

Subtitle D—Improving Employment and Reemployment Rights of Members of the Uniformed Services

- Sec. 431. Enforcement of rights of members of uniformed services with respect to States and private employers.
- Sec. 432. Suspension, termination, or debarment of contractors for repeated violations of employment or reemployment rights of members of uniformed services.
- Sec. 433. Subpoena power for Special Counsel in enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of uniformed services with respect to Federal executive agencies.
- Sec. 434. Issuance and service of civil investigative demands by Attorney General.

Subtitle E—Small Business Matters

- Sec. 441. Expansion of contracting goals and preferences of Department of Veterans Affairs to include conditionally owned small business concerns 100 percent owned by veterans.
- Sec. 442. Modification of treatment under contracting goals and preferences of Department of Veterans Affairs for small businesses owned by veterans of small businesses after death of disabled veteran owners.
- Sec. 443. Treatment of businesses after deaths of servicemember-owners for purposes of Department of Veterans Affairs contracting goals and preferences.
- Sec. 444. Special rule for treatment under contracting goals and preferences of Department of Veterans Affairs of small business concerns licensed in community property States.
- Sec. 445. Report on assistance for veterans in obtaining training on purchasing and operating a franchise.

TITLE V—ACCOUNTABILITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS

- Sec. 501. Administration of Veterans Integrated Service Networks.
- Sec. 502. Regional support centers for Veterans Integrated Service Networks.
- Sec. 503. Commission on Capital Planning for Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facilities.
- Sec. 504. Advance appropriations for certain accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 505. Public access to Department of Veterans Affairs research and data sharing between Departments.
- Sec. 506. Assessment by Comptroller General of the United States of information made available by Veterans Benefits Administration.
- Sec. 507. Comptroller general report on advisory committees of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

TITLE VI—IMPROVEMENT OF PROCESSING OF CLAIMS FOR COMPENSATION

Subtitle A—Claims Based on Military Sexual Trauma

- Sec. 601. Medical examination and opinion for disability compensation claims based on military sexual trauma.
- Sec. 602. Case representative officers for military sexual trauma support.
- Sec. 603. Report on standard of proof for service-connection of mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma.
- Sec. 604. Reports on claims for disabilities incurred or aggravated by military sexual trauma.

Subtitle B—Claims for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

- Sec. 611. Program on treatment of certain applications for dependency and indemnity compensation as fully developed claims.
- Sec. 612. Report by Secretary of Veterans Affairs on improving timeliness and accuracy of administration of claims for dependency and indemnity compensation and pension for surviving spouses and children.

Subtitle C—Agency of Original Jurisdiction

- Sec. 621. Working group to improve employee work credit and work management systems of Veterans Benefits Administration in an electronic environment.
- Sec. 622. Task force on retention and training of Department of Veterans Affairs claims processors and adjudicators.
- Sec. 623. Reports on requests by the Department of Veterans Affairs for records of other Federal agencies.
- Sec. 624. Recognition of representatives of Indian tribes in the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 625. Program on participation of local and tribal governments in improving quality of claims for disability compensation submitted to Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 626. Department of Veterans Affairs notice of average times for processing compensation claims.
- Sec. 627. Quarterly reports on progress of Department of Veterans Affairs in eliminating backlog of claims for compensation that have not been adjudicated.
- Sec. 628. Reports on use of existing authorities to expedite benefits decisions.
- Sec. 629. Reports on Department disability medical examinations and prevention of unnecessary medical examinations.

Subtitle D—Board of Veterans’ Appeals and Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

- Sec. 631. Treatment of certain misfiled documents as a notice of appeal to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
- Sec. 632. Determination of manner of appearance for hearings before Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

TITLE VII—OUTREACH MATTERS

- Sec. 701. Program to increase coordination of outreach efforts between the Department of Veterans Affairs and Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations.
- Sec. 702. Cooperative agreements between Secretary of Veterans Affairs and States on outreach activities.
- Sec. 703. Advisory committee on outreach activities of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 704. Advisory boards on outreach activities of Department of Veterans Affairs relating to health care.
- Sec. 705. Modification of requirement for periodic reports to Congress on outreach activities of Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Sec. 706. Budget transparency for outreach activities of Department of Veterans Affairs.

TITLE VIII—ENHANCEMENT OF RIGHTS UNDER
SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

- Sec. 801. Modification of period determining which actions are covered under stay of proceedings and adjustment of obligation protections concerning mortgages and trust deeds of members of uniformed services.
- Sec. 802. Protections for members of uniformed services regarding professional licenses.
- Sec. 803. Prohibition on denial of credit because of eligibility for protection.

- Sec. 804. Interest rate limitation on debt entered into during military service to consolidate or refinance student loans incurred before military service.
- Sec. 805. Termination of residential leases after assignment or relocation to quarters of United States or housing facility under jurisdiction of uniformed service.
- Sec. 806. Protection of surviving spouse with respect to mortgage foreclosure.
- Sec. 807. Improved protection of members of uniformed services against default judgments.
- Sec. 808. Clarification regarding application of enforcement authority of Attorney General and private right of action under Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.
- Sec. 809. Clerical amendments.

TITLE IX—OTHER MATTERS

- Sec. 901. Repeal of reductions made by Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.
- Sec. 902. Consideration by Secretary of Veterans Affairs of resources disposed of for less than fair market value by individuals applying for pension.
- Sec. 903. Extension of reduced pension for certain veterans covered by medicaid plans for services furnished by nursing facilities.
- Sec. 904. Conditions on award of per diem payments by Secretary of Veterans Affairs for provision of housing or services to homeless veterans.
- Sec. 905. Exception to certain recapture requirements and treatment of contracts and grants with State homes with respect to care for homeless veterans.
- Sec. 906. Extended period for scheduling of medical exams for veterans receiving temporary disability ratings for severe mental disorders.
- Sec. 907. Authority to issue Veterans ID Cards.
- Sec. 908. Honoring as veterans certain persons who performed service in the reserve components of the Armed Forces.
- Sec. 909. Extension of authority for Secretary of Veterans Affairs to obtain information from Secretary of Treasury and Commissioner of Social Security for income verification purposes.
- Sec. 910. Extension of authority for Secretary of Veterans Affairs to issue and guarantee certain loans.
- Sec. 911. Review of determination of certain service in Philippines during World War II.
- Sec. 912. Review of determination of certain service of merchant mariners during World War II.
- Sec. 913. Report on Laotian military support of Armed Forces of the United States during Vietnam War.
- Sec. 914. Report on practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs to adequately provide services to veterans with hearing loss.
- Sec. 915. Report on joint programs of Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense with respect to hearing loss of members of the Armed Forces and veterans.
- Sec. 916. Limitation on aggregate amount of bonuses payable to personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs during fiscal year 2014.
- Sec. 917. Amendment to OCO adjustments.

1 **SEC. 2. REFERENCES TO TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.**

2 Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in
3 this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms
4 of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provi-
5 sion, the reference shall be considered to be made to a
6 section or other provision of title 38, United States Code.

7 **SEC. 3. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

8 (a) PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary effects of
9 this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard
10 maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-
11 As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

12 (b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARD.—The budgetary ef-
13 fects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO score-
14 card maintained for purposes of section 201 of S. Con.
15 Res. 21 (110th Congress).

16 **TITLE I—SURVIVOR AND**
17 **DEPENDENT MATTERS**

18 **SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF INITIAL PERIOD FOR INCREASED**
19 **DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSA-**
20 **TION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES WITH CHIL-**
21 **DREN.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1311(f)(2) is amended by
23 striking “two-year” and inserting “three-year”.

24 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
25 subsection (a) shall take effect as of September 30, 2014,
26 and shall apply to any surviving spouse who was eligible

1 for or in receipt of benefits under section 1311(f) of title
 2 38, United States Code, on or after the date of the enact-
 3 ment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 102. ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY**
 5 **COMPENSATION, EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE,**
 6 **AND HOUSING LOANS FOR SURVIVING**
 7 **SPOUSES WHO REMARRY AFTER AGE 55.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2)(B) of section
 9 103(d) is amended to read as follows:

10 “(B) The remarriage after age 55 of the surviving
 11 spouse of a veteran shall not bar the furnishing of benefits
 12 specified in paragraph (5) to such person as the surviving
 13 spouse of the veteran.”.

14 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (5) of
 15 such section is amended by striking “Paragraphs (2)(A)”
 16 and inserting “Paragraphs (2)”.

17 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 18 this section shall take effect on the date that is one year
 19 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

20 **SEC. 103. EXTENSION OF MARRIAGE DELIMITING DATE FOR**
 21 **SURVIVING SPOUSES OF PERSIAN GULF WAR**
 22 **VETERANS TO QUALIFY FOR DEATH PEN-**
 23 **SION.**

24 Section 1541(f)(1)(E) is amended by striking “Janu-
 25 ary 1, 2001” and inserting “the date that is 10 years and

1 one day after the date on which the Persian Gulf War
 2 was terminated, as prescribed by Presidential proclama-
 3 tion or by law”.

4 **SEC. 104. MAKING EFFECTIVE DATE PROVISION CON-**
 5 **SISTENT WITH PROVISION FOR BENEFITS**
 6 **ELIGIBILITY OF A VETERAN’S CHILD BASED**
 7 **UPON TERMINATION OF REMARRIAGE BY AN-**
 8 **NULMENT.**

9 Section 5110(l) is amended by striking “, or of an
 10 award or increase of benefits based on recognition of a
 11 child upon termination of the child’s marriage by death
 12 or divorce,”.

13 **SEC. 105. EXPANSION OF MARINE GUNNERY SERGEANT**
 14 **JOHN DAVID FRY SCHOLARSHIP.**

15 (a) EXPANSION OF ENTITLEMENT.—Subsection
 16 (b)(9) of section 3311 is amended by inserting “or
 17 spouse” after “child”.

18 (b) LIMITATION AND ELECTION ON CERTAIN BENE-
 19 FITS.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended—

20 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
 21 graph (4); and

22 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
 23 lowing new paragraphs:

24 “(2) LIMITATION.—The entitlement of an indi-
 25 vidual to assistance under subsection (a) pursuant to

1 paragraph (9) of subsection (b) because the indi-
 2 vidual was a spouse of a person described in such
 3 paragraph shall expire on the earlier of—

4 “(A) the date that is 15 years after the
 5 date on which the person died; and

6 “(B) the date on which the individual re-
 7 marries.

8 “(3) ELECTION ON RECEIPT OF CERTAIN BENE-
 9 FITS.—A surviving spouse entitled to assistance
 10 under subsection (a) pursuant to paragraph (9) of
 11 subsection (b) who is also entitled to educational as-
 12 sistance under chapter 35 of this title may not re-
 13 ceive assistance under both this section and such
 14 chapter, but shall make an irrevocable election (in
 15 such form and manner as the Secretary may pre-
 16 scribe) under which section or chapter to receive
 17 educational assistance.”.

18 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3321(b)(4)
 19 is amended—

20 (1) by striking “an individual” and inserting “a
 21 child”; and

22 (2) by striking “such individual’s” each time it
 23 appears and inserting “such child’s”.

1 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 2 this section shall take effect on the date that is two years
 3 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 106. EXPANSION OF YELLOW RIBBON G.I. EDUCATION**
 5 **ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3317(a) is amended by
 7 striking “in paragraphs (1) and (2)” and inserting “in
 8 paragraphs (1), (2), and (9)”.

9 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 10 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to academic terms
 11 beginning after July 1, 2015.

12 **SEC. 107. BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN OF CERTAIN THAILAND**
 13 **SERVICE VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA**
 14 **BIFIDA.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 18 is
 16 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

17 **“§ 1822. Benefits for children of certain Thailand**
 18 **service veterans born with spina bifida**

19 “(a) BENEFITS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
 20 provide to any child of a veteran of covered service in
 21 Thailand who is suffering from spina bifida the health
 22 care, vocational training and rehabilitation, and monetary
 23 allowance required to be paid to a child of a Vietnam vet-
 24 eran who is suffering from spina bifida under subchapter
 25 I of this chapter as if such child of a veteran of covered

1 service in Thailand were a child of a Vietnam veteran who
 2 is suffering from spina bifida under such subchapter.

3 “(b) SPINA BIFIDA CONDITIONS COVERED.—This
 4 section applies with respect to all forms and manifesta-
 5 tions of spina bifida, except spina bifida occulta.

6 “(c) VETERAN OF COVERED SERVICE IN THAI-
 7 LAND.—For purposes of this section, a veteran of covered
 8 service in Thailand is any individual, without regard to
 9 the characterization of that individual’s service, who—

10 “(1) served in the active military, naval, or air
 11 service in Thailand, as determined by the Secretary
 12 in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, dur-
 13 ing the period beginning on January 9, 1962, and
 14 ending on May 7, 1975; and

15 “(2) is determined by the Secretary, in con-
 16 sultation with the Secretary of Defense, to have been
 17 exposed to a herbicide agent during such service in
 18 Thailand.

19 “(d) HERBICIDE AGENT.—For purposes of this sec-
 20 tion, the term ‘herbicide agent’ means a chemical in a her-
 21 bicide used in support of United States and allied military
 22 operations in Thailand, as determined by the Secretary in
 23 consultation with the Secretary of Defense, during the pe-
 24 riod beginning on January 9, 1962, and ending on May
 25 7, 1975.”.

1 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO DEFINITION OF
2 “CHILD”.—Section 1831(1) is amended—

3 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

4 (A) by striking “subchapter III of this
5 chapter” and inserting “section 1821 of this
6 title”; and

7 (B) in clause (i), by striking “section 1821
8 of this title” and inserting “that section”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 paragraph:

11 “(C) For purposes of section 1822 of this title,
12 an individual, regardless of age or marital status,
13 who—

14 “(i) is the natural child of a veteran of
15 covered service in Thailand (as determined for
16 purposes of that section); and

17 “(ii) was conceived after the date on which
18 that veteran first entered service described in
19 subsection (c) of that section.”.

20 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

21 (1) SUBCHAPTER HEADING.—The heading for
22 subchapter III of chapter 18 is amended by insert-
23 ing “AND THAILAND” after “KOREA”.

24 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
25 at the beginning of chapter 18 is amended—

1 (A) by striking the item relating to sub-
 2 chapter III and inserting the following new
 3 item:

“SUBCHAPTER III—CHILDREN OF CERTAIN KOREA AND THAILAND SERVICE
 VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA”;

4 and

5 (B) by inserting after the item relating to
 6 section 1821 the following new item:

“1822. Benefits for children of certain Thailand service veterans born with spina
 bifida.”.

7 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 8 this section shall take effect on the date that is one year
 9 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 **SEC. 108. PROGRAM ON ASSISTED LIVING FOR CHILDREN**
 11 **OF VIETNAM VETERANS AND CERTAIN**
 12 **KOREA SERVICE VETERANS BORN WITH**
 13 **SPINA BIFIDA.**

14 (a) PROGRAM.—Commencing not later than 180 days
 15 after the date on which this section takes effect, the Sec-
 16 retary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a program to
 17 assess the feasibility and advisability of providing assisted
 18 living, group home care, or similar services in lieu of nurs-
 19 ing home care to covered individuals.

20 (b) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of this
 21 section, a covered individual is any individual who is enti-
 22 tled to health care under subchapter I or III of chapter
 23 18 of title 38, United States Code.

1 (c) DURATION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
3 vided in this subsection, the program shall be carried
4 out during the three-year period beginning on the
5 date of the commencement of the program.

6 (2) CONTINUATION.—Subject to paragraph (3),
7 the Secretary may continue the program for an addi-
8 tional two-year period as the Secretary considers ap-
9 propriate.

10 (3) TERMINATION.—The program may not op-
11 erate after the date that is five years after the date
12 of the commencement of the program.

13 (d) SCOPE OF SERVICES AND PROGRAM.—Under the
14 program, the Secretary shall provide covered individuals
15 with integrated, comprehensive services, including the fol-
16 lowing:

17 (1) Assisted living, group home care, or such
18 other similar services as the Secretary considers ap-
19 propriate.

20 (2) Transportation services.

21 (3) Such other services as the Secretary con-
22 sider appropriate for the care of covered individuals
23 under the program.

24 (e) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the
25 program, the Secretary shall—

1 (1) inform all covered individuals of the services
2 available under the program;

3 (2) enter into agreements with appropriate pro-
4 viders of assisted living, group home care, or other
5 similar services for provision of services under the
6 program; and

7 (3) determine the appropriate number of cov-
8 ered individuals to be enrolled in the program and
9 criteria for such enrollment.

10 (f) REPORTS.—

11 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORTS.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
13 after the date of the commencement of the pro-
14 gram and, if the program is continued under
15 subsection (c)(2), not later than three years
16 after the date of the commencement of the pro-
17 gram, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
18 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
19 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
20 House of Representatives a report on the pro-
21 gram.

22 (B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted
23 under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
24 lowing:

1 (i) A description of the implementa-
2 tion and operation of the program.

3 (ii) The number of covered individuals
4 receiving benefits under the program.

5 (iii) An analysis that compares the
6 costs of furnishing assisted living, group
7 home care, or similar services with the
8 costs of furnishing nursing home care.

9 (iv) An analysis of the costs and bene-
10 fits under the program.

11 (v) The findings and conclusions of
12 the Secretary with respect to the program.

13 (vi) Such recommendations for the
14 continuation or expansion of the program
15 as the Secretary may have.

16 (2) FINAL REPORT.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
18 days after the completion of the program, the
19 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
20 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
21 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
22 Representatives a report on the program.

23 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
24 under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
25 lowing:

1 (i) The findings and conclusions of
2 the Secretary with respect to the program.

3 (ii) Such recommendations for the
4 continuation or expansion of the program
5 as the Secretary may have.

6 (g) FUNDING.—Amounts to carry out the program
7 shall be derived from amounts appropriated or otherwise
8 made available for the furnishing of nursing home care
9 under chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code.

10 (h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
11 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 109. PROGRAM ON GRIEF COUNSELING IN RETREAT**
14 **SETTINGS FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES OF MEM-**
15 **BERS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO DIE**
16 **WHILE SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE**
17 **ARMED FORCES.**

18 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than
20 180 days after the date on which this section takes
21 effect, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry
22 out, through the Readjustment Counseling Service of
23 the Veterans Health Administration, a program to
24 assess the feasibility and advisability of providing
25 grief counseling services described in subsection (b)

1 in group retreat settings to surviving spouses of
2 members of the Armed Forces who die while serving
3 on active duty in the Armed Forces who would, as
4 determined by the Readjustment Counseling Service,
5 benefit from the services provided under the pro-
6 gram.

7 (2) PARTICIPATION AT ELECTION OF SUR-
8 VIVING SPOUSE.—The participation of a surviving
9 spouse in the program under this section shall be at
10 the election of the surviving spouse.

11 (b) COVERED SERVICES.—The services provided to a
12 surviving spouse under the program shall include the fol-
13 lowing:

14 (1) Information and counseling on coping with
15 grief.

16 (2) Information about benefits and services
17 available to surviving spouses under laws adminis-
18 tered by the Secretary.

19 (3) Such other information and counseling as
20 the Secretary considers appropriate to assist a sur-
21 viving spouse under the program with adjusting to
22 the death of a spouse.

23 (c) EVENTS.—The Secretary shall carry out the pro-
24 gram at not fewer than six events as follows:

1 (1) Three events at which surviving spouses
2 with dependent children are encouraged to bring
3 their children.

4 (2) Three events at which surviving spouses
5 with dependent children are not encouraged to bring
6 their children.

7 (d) DURATION.—The program shall be carried out
8 during the two-year period beginning on the date of the
9 commencement of the program.

10 (e) REPORTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
12 after the completion of the first year of the program
13 and not later than 180 days after the completion of
14 the program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress
15 a report on the program.

16 (2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under
17 paragraph (1) shall contain the findings and conclu-
18 sions of the Secretary as a result of the program,
19 and shall include such recommendations for the con-
20 tinuation or expansion of the program as the Sec-
21 retary considers appropriate.

22 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “active
23 duty”, “Armed Forces”, and “surviving spouse” have the
24 meanings given such terms in section 101 of title 38,
25 United States Code.

1 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
2 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 110. PROGRAM EVALUATION ON SURVIVORS' AND DE-**
5 **PENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AU-**
6 **THORITIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
8 shall enter into a contract with an appropriate private sec-
9 tor entity to conduct a program evaluation of the authori-
10 ties for survivors' and dependents' educational assistance
11 under chapter 35 of title 38, United States Code.

12 (b) REPORT.—Not later than six months after the
13 entry into the contract required by subsection (a), the Sec-
14 retary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
15 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of
16 the House of Representatives a report setting forth the
17 results of the program evaluation conducted pursuant to
18 the contract, together with such comments on the results
19 of the program evaluation as the Secretary considers ap-
20 propriate.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
22 one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **TITLE II—EDUCATION MATTERS**

2 **SEC. 201. APPROVAL OF COURSES OF EDUCATION PRO-**
3 **VIDED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER**
4 **LEARNING FOR PURPOSES OF ALL-VOLUN-**
5 **TEER FORCE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
6 **PROGRAM AND POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL AS-**
7 **SISTANCE CONDITIONAL ON IN-STATE TUI-**
8 **TION RATE FOR VETERANS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3679 is amended by add-
10 ing at the end the following new subsection:

11 “(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
12 chapter and subject to paragraphs (3) through (6), the
13 Secretary shall disapprove a course of education provided
14 by a public institution of higher learning to a covered indi-
15 vidual pursuing a course of education with educational as-
16 sistance under chapter 30 or 33 of this title while living
17 in the State in which the public institution of higher learn-
18 ing is located if the institution charges tuition and fees
19 for that course for the covered individual at a rate that
20 is higher than the rate the institution charges for tuition
21 and fees for that course for residents of the State in which
22 the institution is located, regardless of the covered individ-
23 ual’s State of residence.

24 “(2) For purposes of this subsection, a covered indi-
25 vidual is any individual as follows:

1 “(A) A veteran who was discharged or released
2 from a period of not fewer than 90 days of service
3 in the active military, naval, or air service less than
4 three years before the date of enrollment in the
5 course concerned.

6 “(B) An individual who is entitled to assistance
7 under section 3311(b)(9) or 3319 of this title by vir-
8 tue of such individual’s relationship to a veteran de-
9 scribed in subparagraph (A).

10 “(3) If after enrollment in a course of education that
11 is subject to disapproval under paragraph (1) by reason
12 of paragraph (2)(A) or (2)(B) a covered individual pur-
13 sues one or more courses of education at the same public
14 institution of higher learning while remaining continuously
15 enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks be-
16 tween courses, semesters or terms) at that institution of
17 higher learning, any course so pursued by the covered indi-
18 vidual at that institution of higher learning while so con-
19 tinuously enrolled shall also be subject to disapproval
20 under paragraph (1).

21 “(4) It shall not be grounds to disapprove a course
22 of education under paragraph (1) if a public institution
23 of higher learning requires a covered individual pursuing
24 a course of education at the institution to demonstrate an
25 intent, by means other than satisfying a physical presence

1 requirement, to establish residency in the State in which
2 the institution is located, or to satisfy other requirements
3 not relating to the establishment of residency, in order to
4 be charged tuition and fees for that course at a rate that
5 is equal to or less than the rate the institution charges
6 for tuition and fees for that course for residents of the
7 State.

8 “(5) The Secretary may waive such requirements of
9 paragraph (1) as the Secretary considers appropriate.

10 “(6) Disapproval under paragraph (1) shall apply
11 only with respect to educational assistance under chapters
12 30 and 33 of this title.”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (c) of section
14 3679 of title 38, United States Code (as added by sub-
15 section (a) of this section), shall apply with respect to edu-
16 cational assistance provided for pursuit of programs of
17 education during academic terms that begin after July 1,
18 2015, through courses of education that commence on or
19 after that date.

1 **SEC. 202. EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF AUTHORITY FOR**
2 **CERTAIN QUALIFYING WORK-STUDY ACTIVITIES FOR PURPOSES OF THE EDUCATIONAL**
3 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) EXTENSION OF EXPIRING CURRENT AUTHORITY.—Section 3485(a)(4) is amended by striking “June
7 30, 2013” each place it appears and inserting “June 30,
8 2015”.

10 (b) EXPANSION TO OUTREACH SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES.—Such section is
11 further amended by adding at the end the following new
12 subparagraph:

14 “(K) During the period beginning on June 30,
15 2013, and ending on June 30, 2015, the following
16 activities carried out at the offices of Members of
17 Congress for such Members:

18 “(i) The distribution of information to
19 members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and
20 their dependents about the benefits and services
21 under laws administered by the Secretary and
22 other appropriate governmental and nongovernmental programs.

24 “(ii) The preparation and processing of papers and other documents, including documents
25 to assist in the preparation and presentation of
26

1 claims for benefits under laws administered by
2 the Secretary.”.

3 (c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than June 30 of
5 2014 and 2015, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
6 shall submit to Congress a report on the work-study
7 allowances paid under paragraph (1) of section
8 3485(a) of title 38, United States Code, during the
9 most recent one-year period for qualifying work-
10 study activities described in paragraph (4) of such
11 section, as amended by subsections (a) and (b) of
12 this section.

13 (2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under
14 paragraph (1) shall include, for the year covered by
15 such report, the following:

16 (A) A description of the recipients of such
17 work-study allowances.

18 (B) A list of the locations where qualifying
19 work-study activities were carried out.

20 (C) A description of the outreach con-
21 ducted by the Secretary to increase awareness
22 of the eligibility of such work-study activities
23 for such work-study allowances.

1 **SEC. 203. PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO REFERENCES TO GI**
 2 **BILL AND POST-9/11 GI BILL.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 36 is
 4 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

5 **“§ 3697B. Prohibition relating to references to GI Bill**
 6 **and Post-9/11 GI Bill**

7 “(a) PROHIBITION.—(1) No person may, except with
 8 the written permission of the Secretary, use the words and
 9 phrases covered by this subsection in connection with any
 10 promotion, goods, services, or commercial activity in a
 11 manner that reasonably and falsely suggests that such use
 12 is approved, endorsed, or authorized by the Department
 13 or any component thereof.

14 “(2) For purposes of this subsection, the words and
 15 phrases covered by this subsection are as follows:

16 “(A) ‘GI Bill’.

17 “(B) ‘Post-9/11 GI Bill’.

18 “(3) A determination that a use of one or more words
 19 and phrases covered by this subsection in connection with
 20 a promotion, goods, services, or commercial activity is not
 21 a violation of this subsection may not be made solely on
 22 the ground that such promotion, goods, services, or com-
 23 mercial activity includes a disclaimer of affiliation with the
 24 Department or any component thereof.

25 “(b) ENFORCEMENT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—(1)
 26 When any person is engaged or is about to engage in an

1 act or practice which constitutes or will constitute conduct
 2 prohibited by subsection (a), the Attorney General may
 3 initiate a civil proceeding in a district court of the United
 4 States to enjoin such act or practice.

5 “(2) Such court may, at any time before final deter-
 6 mination, enter such restraining orders or prohibitions, or
 7 take such other action as is warranted, to prevent injury
 8 to the United States or to any person or class of persons
 9 for whose protection the action is brought.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 11 at the beginning of chapter 36 is amended by inserting
 12 after the item relating to section 3697A the following new
 13 item:

“3697B. Prohibition relating to references to GI Bill and Post-9/11 GI Bill.”.

14 **SEC. 204. REVIEW OF UTILIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL AS-**
 15 **SISTANCE TO PURSUE PROGRAMS OF TRAIN-**
 16 **ING ON THE JOB AND PARTICIPATING EM-**
 17 **PLOYERS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the
 19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
 20 erans Affairs shall commence a review of—

21 (1) the utilization of educational assistance
 22 under laws administered by the Secretary of Vet-
 23 erans Affairs to pursue programs of training on the
 24 job (other than programs of apprenticeship); and

1 (2) the availability of such programs to individ-
2 uals seeking to pursue such programs with such edu-
3 cational assistance.

4 (b) REPORT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years
6 after the date on which the Secretary commences the
7 review required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall
8 submit to Congress a report on such review.

9 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required by para-
10 graph (1) shall include the following:

11 (A) The extent of utilization as described
12 in paragraph (1) of subsection (a).

13 (B) An assessment of the availability of
14 programs as described in paragraph (2) of such
15 subsection.

16 (C) A description of any barriers the Sec-
17 retary has identified to greater utilization of
18 educational assistance for pursuit of a program
19 of training on the job or availability of such
20 programs.

21 (D) Such recommendations for legislative
22 or administrative action as the Secretary may
23 have to increase or decrease such utilization or
24 availability.

1 (E) Such other matters as the Secretary
2 considers appropriate.

3 **SEC. 205. REPORT ON DEBT MANAGEMENT AND COLLEC-**
4 **TION.**

5 (a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the effec-
6 tive date specified in subsection (c), the Comptroller Gen-
7 eral of the United States shall submit to the Committee
8 on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
9 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report
10 on processes used by the Department of Veterans Affairs
11 to identify and resolve cases of incorrect payments associ-
12 ated with educational assistance under chapters 30 and
13 33 of title 38, United States Code.

14 (b) ISSUES ADDRESSED.—The report required by
15 subsection (a) shall, to the extent possible, address the fol-
16 lowing:

17 (1) The effectiveness of the processes referred
18 to in subsection (a) in identifying and resolving in-
19 correct payments associated with educational assist-
20 ance under chapters 30 and 33 of title 38, United
21 States Code.

22 (2) The accuracy of overpayment information
23 provided to veterans by the Education Service and
24 Debt Management Center of the Department.

(3) How well the Debt Management Center of the Department communicates and works with veterans to resolve disputed debt amounts.

(4) How the payment and debt collection processes of the Department compare to comparable programs in other Federal agencies.

(5) Any recommendations to improve the payment and debt collection processes of the Department that the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect on the date that is one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 SEC. 206. RESTORATION OF PRIOR REPORTING FEE MULTI-
15 PLIERS.

16 Section 3684(c) is amended—

17 (1) by striking “\$12” and inserting “\$7”; and

18 (2) by striking “\$15” and inserting “\$11”.

1 **TITLE III—HEALTH CARE**
2 **MATTERS**
3 **Subtitle A—Expansion and Im-**
4 **provements of Benefits Gen-**
5 **erally**

6 **SEC. 301. REQUIREMENT FOR ENROLLMENT IN PATIENT**
7 **ENROLLMENT SYSTEM OF THE DEPARTMENT**
8 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF CERTAIN VET-**
9 **ERANS ELIGIBLE FOR ENROLLMENT BY LAW**
10 **BUT NOT CURRENTLY PERMITTED TO EN-**
11 **ROLL.**

12 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR ENROLLMENT.—Section
13 1705 is amended by adding at the end the following new
14 subsection:

15 “(d)(1) The Secretary shall provide for the enroll-
16 ment in the patient enrollment system of veterans speci-
17 fied in paragraph (2) by not later than December 31,
18 2014.

19 “(2) Veterans specified in this paragraph are as fol-
20 lows:

21 “(A) Veterans with noncompensable service-con-
22 nected disabilities rated as zero percent disabling
23 who—

24 “(i) are not otherwise permitted to enroll
25 in the system as of the date of the enactment

1 of the Comprehensive Veterans Health and
2 Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restora-
3 tion Act of 2014; and

4 “(ii) as of the date of enrollment under
5 this section, do not have access to health insur-
6 ance except through a health exchange estab-
7 lished pursuant to section 1311 of the Patient
8 Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C.
9 18031).

10 “(B) Veterans without service-connected dis-
11 ability who—

12 “(i) are not otherwise permitted to enroll
13 in the system as of the date of the enactment
14 of the Comprehensive Veterans Health and
15 Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restora-
16 tion Act of 2014; and

17 “(ii) as of the date of enrollment under
18 this section, do not have access to health insur-
19 ance except through a health exchange estab-
20 lished pursuant to section 1311 of the Patient
21 Protection and Affordable Care Act.

22 “(3) A veteran who, after enrolling in the patient en-
23 rollment system pursuant to this subsection, obtains ac-
24 cess to health insurance other than through a health ex-
25 change shall remain enrolled in the patient enrollment sys-

1 tem notwithstanding obtaining access to such health in-
 2 surance.

3 “(4) A veteran enrolled in the patient enrollment sys-
 4 tem pursuant to this subsection shall maintain the priority
 5 for care of the veteran at the time of enrollment unless
 6 and until a change in circumstances of the veteran results
 7 in a higher priority for care of the veteran under sub-
 8 section (a).”.

9 (b) VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR ENROLL-
 10 MENT.—

11 (1) USE OF INFORMATION ON HEALTH INSUR-
 12 ANCE COVERAGE.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 53 is amended
 14 by inserting after section 5318 the following
 15 new section:

16 **“§ 5319. Review of reporting of health insurance cov-
 17 erage**

18 “The Secretary shall notify each veteran who enrolls
 19 under subsection (d) of section 1705 of this title in the
 20 patient enrollment system of veterans under such section
 21 that information on the veteran’s access to health insur-
 22 ance that is furnished to the Secretary for purposes of
 23 such enrollment may be compared with information ob-
 24 tained by the Secretary of the Treasury under section
 25 6103(l)(23) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”.

1 (B) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of
 2 sections at the beginning of chapter 53 is
 3 amended by adding at the end the following
 4 new item:

“5319. Review of reporting of health insurance coverage.”.

5 (2) DISCLOSURE OF RETURN INFORMATION BY
 6 INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.—Section 6103(l) of
 7 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by
 8 adding at the end the following new paragraph:

9 “(23) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN RETURN IN-
 10 FORMATION FOR VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY OF
 11 VETERANS FOR ENROLLMENT IN DEPARTMENT OF
 12 VETERANS AFFAIRS PATIENT ENROLLMENT SYS-
 13 TEM.—

14 “(A) RETURN INFORMATION FROM INTER-
 15 NAL REVENUE SERVICE.—The Secretary shall,
 16 upon written request, disclose current return in-
 17 formation from returns under section 6055 with
 18 respect to minimum essential coverage of indi-
 19 viduals to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for
 20 the purposes of verifying the eligibility of vet-
 21 erans for enrollment in the patient enrollment
 22 system of the Department of Veterans Affairs
 23 under section 1705(d) of title 38.

24 “(B) RESTRICTION ON DISCLOSURE.—The
 25 Secretary shall disclose return information

1 under subparagraph (A) only for purposes of,
2 and to the extent necessary in, verifying the eli-
3 gibility of veterans to enroll in the patient en-
4 rollment system described in that subpara-
5 graph.

6 “(C) RESTRICTION ON USE OF DISCLOSED
7 INFORMATION.—Return information disclosed
8 under subparagraph (A) may be used by the
9 Secretary of Veterans Affairs only for the pur-
10 poses of, and to the extent necessary in,
11 verifying the eligibility of veterans to enroll in
12 the patient enrollment system described in that
13 subparagraph.”.

14 (c) PUBLIC NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF EN-
15 ROLLMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall pub-
16 lish in the Federal Register, and shall make available to
17 the public on an Internet website of the Department of
18 Veterans Affairs, a notice regarding the date on which vet-
19 erans covered by subsection (d) of section 1705 of title
20 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a) of this
21 section), may commence enrollment in the patient enroll-
22 ment system required by that section.

1 **SEC. 302. FURTHER EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY**
 2 **FOR HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS OF COM-**
 3 **BAT SERVICE DURING CERTAIN PERIODS OF**
 4 **HOSTILITIES AND WAR.**

5 Section 1710(e)(3) is amended—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “the date
 7 that is five years before the date of the enactment
 8 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
 9 Year 2008, after a period of five years” and insert-
 10 ing “January 27, 2003, after a period of 10 years”;
 11 and

12 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “more
 13 than five years” and all that follows and inserting
 14 “before January 28, 2003, and who did not enroll
 15 in the patient enrollment system under section 1705
 16 of this title before January 28, 2008, after January
 17 27, 2018.”.

18 **SEC. 303. EXTENSION TO ALL VETERANS WITH A SERIOUS**
 19 **SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY OF ELIGI-**
 20 **BILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN FAMILY CARE-**
 21 **GIVER PROGRAM.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1720G(a)(2)(B) is
 23 amended by striking “on or after September 11, 2001”.

24 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
 25 subsection (a) shall take effect on September 30, 2014.

1 **SEC. 304. IMPROVED ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE IMMUNIZA-**
2 **TIONS FOR VETERANS.**

3 (a) INCLUSION OF RECOMMENDED ADULT IMMUNI-
4 ZATIONS AS MEDICAL SERVICES.—

5 (1) COVERED BENEFIT.—Subparagraph (F) of
6 section 1701(9) is amended to read as follows:

7 “(F) immunizations against infectious dis-
8 eases, including each immunization on the rec-
9 ommended adult immunization schedule at the
10 time such immunization is indicated on that
11 schedule;”.

12 (2) RECOMMENDED ADULT IMMUNIZATION
13 SCHEDULE DEFINED.—Section 1701 is amended by
14 adding after paragraph (9) the following new para-
15 graph:

16 “(10) The term ‘recommended adult immuniza-
17 tion schedule’ means the schedule established (and
18 periodically reviewed and, as appropriate, revised) by
19 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
20 established by the Secretary of Health and Human
21 Services and delegated to the Centers for Disease
22 Control and Prevention.”.

23 (b) INCLUSION OF RECOMMENDED ADULT IMMUNI-
24 ZATIONS IN ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 1704(1)(A) is
25 amended—

26 (1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

1 (2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the
2 end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (3) by inserting after clause (ii) the following
4 new clause:

5 “(iii) to provide veterans each immu-
6 nization on the recommended adult immu-
7 nization schedule at the time such immuni-
8 zation is indicated on that schedule.”.

9 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
12 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
13 mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the
14 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of
15 Representatives a report on the development and im-
16 plementation by the Department of Veterans Affairs
17 of quality measures and metrics, including targets
18 for compliance, to ensure that veterans receiving
19 medical services under chapter 17 of title 38, United
20 States Code, receive each immunization on the rec-
21 ommended adult immunization schedule at the time
22 such immunization is indicated on that schedule.

23 (2) RECOMMENDED ADULT IMMUNIZATION
24 SCHEDULE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term
25 “recommended adult immunization schedule” has

1 the meaning given that term in section 1701(10) of
 2 title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection
 3 (a)(2).

4 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall
 5 take effect on the date that is one year after the
 6 date of the enactment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 305. EXPANSION OF PROVISION OF CHIROPRACTIC**
 8 **CARE AND SERVICES TO VETERANS.**

9 (a) PROGRAM FOR PROVISION OF CHIROPRACTIC
 10 CARE AND SERVICES TO VETERANS.—Section 204(c) of
 11 the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Pro-
 12 grams Enhancement Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–135;
 13 115 Stat. 2459; 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended—

14 (1) by inserting “(1)” before “The program”;
 15 and

16 (2) by adding at the end the following new
 17 paragraph:

18 “(2) The program shall be carried out at not fewer
 19 than two medical centers or clinics in each Veterans Inte-
 20 grated Service Network by not later than one year after
 21 the effective date specified in section 305(c) of the Com-
 22 prehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Re-
 23 tirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, and at not fewer
 24 than 50 percent of all medical centers in each Veterans

1 Integrated Service Network by not later than two years
 2 after such effective date.”.

3 (b) EXPANDED CHIROPRACTOR SERVICES AVAIL-
 4 ABLE TO VETERANS.—

5 (1) MEDICAL SERVICES.—Paragraph (6) of sec-
 6 tion 1701 is amended by adding at the end the fol-
 7 lowing new subparagraph:

8 “(H) Chiropractic services.”.

9 (2) REHABILITATIVE SERVICES.—Paragraph
 10 (8) of such section is amended by inserting “chiro-
 11 practic,” after “counseling,”.

12 (3) PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES.—Para-
 13 graph (9) of such section is amended—

14 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (F)
 15 through (K) as subparagraphs (G) through (L),
 16 respectively; and

17 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (E)
 18 the following new subparagraph (F):

19 “(F) periodic and preventive chiropractic
 20 examinations and services;”.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amend-
 22 ments made by this section shall take effect on the date
 23 that is one year after the date of the enactment of this
 24 Act.

1 **SEC. 306. MODIFICATION OF COMMENCEMENT DATE OF PE-**
 2 **RIOD OF SERVICE AT CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH**
 3 **CAROLINA, FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR HOSPITAL**
 4 **CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN CONNEC-**
 5 **TION WITH EXPOSURE TO CONTAMINATED**
 6 **WATER.**

7 (a) MODIFICATION.—Section 1710(e)(1)(F) is
 8 amended by striking “January 1, 1957,” and inserting
 9 “August 1, 1953 (or such earlier date for the commence-
 10 ment of exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune
 11 as the Secretary, in consultation with the Agency for Toxic
 12 Substances and Disease Registry, shall specify),”.

13 (b) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
 14 fairs shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of any
 15 earlier date for the commencement of exposure to contami-
 16 nated water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for pur-
 17 poses of section 1710(e)(1)(F) of title 38, United States
 18 Code, as amended by subsection (a).

19 **SEC. 307. EXPANSION OF EMERGENCY TREATMENT REIM-**
 20 **BURSEMENT FOR CERTAIN VETERANS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1725(b)(2)(B) is amend-
 22 ed—

23 (1) by inserting “(i)” after “(B)”;

24 (2) by striking the period at the end and insert-
 25 ing “; or”; and

26 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(ii) the veteran was unable to receive care
 2 under this chapter within such 24-month period be-
 3 cause of a waiting period imposed by the Depart-
 4 ment with respect to a new patient examination of
 5 such veteran.”.

6 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 7 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is one
 8 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 308. MODIFICATION OF DETERMINATION OF ELIGI-**
 10 **BILITY OF VETERANS FOR TREATMENT AS A**
 11 **LOW-INCOME FAMILY FOR PURPOSES OF EN-**
 12 **ROLLMENT IN THE PATIENT ENROLLMENT**
 13 **SYSTEM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
 14 **AFFAIRS.**

15 (a) AREAS OF RESIDENCE.—The Secretary of Vet-
 16 erans Affairs shall modify the areas in which veterans re-
 17 side as specified for purposes of determining whether vet-
 18 erans qualify for treatment as low-income families for en-
 19 rollment in the patient enrollment system of the Depart-
 20 ment of Veterans Affairs under section 1705(a)(7) of title
 21 38, United States Code, to meet the requirements as fol-
 22 lows:

23 (1) Any area so specified shall be within only
 24 one State.

1 (2) Any area so specified shall be co-extensive
2 with one or more counties (or similar political sub-
3 divisions) in the State concerned.

4 (b) VARIABLE INCOME THRESHOLDS.—The Sec-
5 retary shall modify the thresholds for income as specified
6 for purposes of determining whether veterans qualify for
7 treatment as low-income families for enrollment in the pa-
8 tient enrollment system referred to in subsection (a) to
9 meet the requirements as follows:

10 (1) There shall be one income threshold for
11 each State, equal to the highest income threshold
12 among the counties within such State.

13 (2) The calculation of the highest income
14 threshold of a county shall be consistent with the
15 calculation used for purposes of section 3(b) of the
16 United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C.
17 1437a(b)).

18 (3) The timing and methodology for imple-
19 menting any modifications in geographic income
20 thresholds pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be deter-
21 mined by the Secretary in such a manner as to per-
22 mit the Department to build capacity for enrolling
23 such additional veterans in the patient enrollment
24 system of the Department as become eligible for en-
25 rollment as a result of such modifications, except

1 that all required modifications shall be completed
2 not later than five years after date of the enactment
3 of this Act.

4 **SEC. 309. EXTENSION OF SUNSET DATE REGARDING TRANS-**
5 **PORTATION OF INDIVIDUALS TO AND FROM**
6 **FACILITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
7 **AFFAIRS AND REQUIREMENT OF REPORT.**

8 (a) EXTENSION OF SUNSET DATE.—Subsection
9 (a)(2) of section 111A is amended by striking “December
10 31, 2014” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

11 (b) FUNDING AVAILABLE.—Such section is further
12 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
13 section:

14 “(c) FUNDING.—There is hereby authorized to be ap-
15 propriated for each of fiscal years 2014 and 2015 for the
16 Department, \$4,000,000 to carry out this section.”.

17 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
19 to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and
20 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives a report on—

22 (1) the efforts of the Secretary to carry out the
23 transportation services required by section 111A(a)
24 of title 38, United States Code;

1 (2) the utilization of those services by covered
2 veterans; and

3 (3) the feasibility and advisability of the con-
4 tinuation of the provision of such services after Sep-
5 tember 30, 2015.

6 **SEC. 310. COVERAGE OF COSTS OF CARE FOR VETERANS AT**
7 **MEDICAL FOSTER HOMES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—In conducting the medical foster
9 home program pursuant to section 17.73 of title 38, Code
10 of Federal Regulations, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
11 may cover the costs associated with the care of veterans
12 at medical foster homes.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take ef-
14 fect on the date that is one year after the date of the en-
15 actment of this Act.

16 **SEC. 311. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF PILOT PRO-**
17 **GRAM ON ASSISTED LIVING SERVICES FOR**
18 **VETERANS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY.**

19 (a) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Subsection (a) of
20 section 1705 of the National Defense Authorization Act
21 for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public Law 110–181; 38 U.S.C.
22 1710C note) is amended by striking “a five-year” and in-
23 serting “an eight-year”.

24 (b) MODIFICATION OF LOCATIONS.—Subsection (b)
25 of such section is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
2 graph (3); and

3 (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
4 following new paragraphs:

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The pilot program shall be
6 carried out at locations selected by the Secretary for
7 purposes of the pilot program.

8 “(2) LOCATED IN SAME REGION AS
9 POLYTRAUMA CENTERS.—Of the locations selected
10 under paragraph (1), at least one location shall be
11 in each health care region of the Veterans Health
12 Administration of the Department of Veterans Af-
13 fairs that contains a polytrauma center of the De-
14 partment of Veterans Affairs.”.

15 (c) MODIFICATION OF REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—
16 Subsection (e) of such section is amended to read as fol-
17 lows:

18 “(e) REPORTS.—

19 “(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two
21 years after the date of the enactment of the
22 Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits
23 and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of
24 2014, and not later than September 30 each
25 year thereafter until 2018, the Secretary shall

1 submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
2 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans'
3 Affairs of the House of Representatives a re-
4 port on the pilot program.

5 “(B) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted
6 under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(i) The number of individuals that
9 participated in the pilot program during
10 the year preceding the submission of the
11 report.

12 “(ii) The number of individuals that
13 successfully completed the pilot program
14 during the year preceding the submission
15 of the report.

16 “(iii) The degree to which pilot pro-
17 gram participants and family members of
18 pilot program participants were satisfied
19 with the pilot program.

20 “(iv) The interim findings and conclu-
21 sions of the Secretary with respect to the
22 success of the pilot program and rec-
23 ommendations for improvement.

24 “(2) FINAL REPORT.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60
 2 days after the completion of the pilot program,
 3 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
 4 Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
 5 mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of
 6 Representatives a final report on the pilot pro-
 7 gram.

8 “(B) ELEMENTS.—The final report re-
 9 quired by subparagraph (A) shall include the
 10 following:

11 “(i) A description of the pilot pro-
 12 gram.

13 “(ii) An assessment of the utility of
 14 the activities under the pilot program in
 15 enhancing the rehabilitation, quality of life,
 16 and community reintegration of veterans
 17 with traumatic brain injury, including com-
 18 plex mild traumatic brain injury.

19 “(iii) Such recommendations as the
 20 Secretary considers appropriate regarding
 21 improving the pilot program.”.

22 (d) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITIONS.—

23 (1) COMMUNITY-BASED BRAIN INJURY RESI-
 24 DENTIAL REHABILITATIVE CARE SERVICES.—Such
 25 section is further amended—

1 (A) in the section heading, by striking
 2 “**ASSISTED LIVING**” and inserting “**COMMU-**
 3 **NITY-BASED BRAIN INJURY RESIDENTIAL**
 4 **REHABILITATIVE CARE**”;

5 (B) in subsection (c), in the subsection
 6 heading, by striking “ASSISTED LIVING” and
 7 inserting “COMMUNITY-BASED BRAIN INJURY
 8 RESIDENTIAL REHABILITATIVE CARE”;

9 (C) by striking “assisted living” each place
 10 it appears, and inserting “community-based
 11 brain injury rehabilitative care”; and

12 (D) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “and
 13 personal care” and inserting “rehabilitation,
 14 and personal care”.

15 (2) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—Subsection (f)(3) of
 16 such section is amended—

17 (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking “;
 18 and” and inserting a semicolon;

19 (B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the
 20 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

21 (C) by adding at the end the following new
 22 subparagraph:

23 “(E) has a traumatic brain injury that is
 24 classified as complex-mild to severe.”.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 2 authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Vet-
 3 erans Affairs for fiscal year 2015 \$46,000,000 to carry
 4 out the pilot program under section 1705 of the National
 5 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (Public
 6 Law 110–181; 38 U.S.C. 1710C note), as amended by this
 7 section. The amount so authorized to be appropriated shall
 8 be available for obligation for the three-year period begin-
 9 ning on the date that is one year after the date of the
 10 enactment of this Act.

11 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 12 this section shall take effect on October 1, 2014.

13 **SEC. 312. PROGRAM ON HEALTH PROMOTION FOR OVER-**
 14 **WEIGHT AND OBESE VETERANS THROUGH**
 15 **SUPPORT OF FITNESS CENTER MEMBER-**
 16 **SHIPS.**

17 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Commencing not later
 18 than 180 days after the date on which this section takes
 19 effect, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, through the
 20 National Center for Preventive Health, carry out a pro-
 21 gram to assess the feasibility and advisability of promoting
 22 health in covered veterans, including achieving a healthy
 23 weight and reducing risks of chronic disease, through sup-
 24 port for fitness center membership.

1 (b) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of this sec-
2 tion, a covered veteran is any veteran who—

3 (1) is enrolled in the system of annual patient
4 enrollment established and operated by the Secretary
5 under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code;

6 (2) is determined by a clinician of the Depart-
7 ment of Veterans Affairs to be overweight or obese
8 as of the date of the commencement of the program;
9 and

10 (3) resides in a location that is more than 15
11 minutes driving distance from a fitness center at a
12 facility of the Department that would otherwise be
13 available to the veteran for at least eight hours per
14 day during five or more days per week.

15 (c) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The program shall be
16 carried out during the two-year period beginning on the
17 date of the commencement of the program.

18 (d) LOCATIONS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program,
20 the Secretary shall select—

21 (A) not less than five medical centers of
22 the Department at which the Secretary shall
23 cover the full reasonable cost of a fitness center
24 membership for covered veterans within the
25 catchment area of such centers; and

1 (B) not less than five medical centers of
2 the Department at which the Secretary shall
3 cover half the reasonable cost of a fitness center
4 membership for covered veterans within the
5 catchment area of such centers.

6 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting locations
7 for the program, the Secretary shall consider the
8 feasibility and advisability of selecting locations in
9 the following areas:

10 (A) Rural areas.

11 (B) Areas that are not in close proximity
12 to an active duty military installation.

13 (C) Areas in different geographic locations.

14 (e) PARTICIPATION.—

15 (1) MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.—

16 The number of covered veterans who may participate
17 in the program at each location selected under sub-
18 section (d) may not exceed 100.

19 (2) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The partici-
20 pation of a covered veteran in the program shall be
21 at the election of the covered veteran in consultation
22 with a clinician of the Department.

23 (f) MEMBERSHIP PAYMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), in carrying out the program, the Sec-
3 retary shall pay the following:

4 (A) The full reasonable cost of a fitness
5 center membership for covered veterans within
6 the catchment area of centers selected under
7 subsection (d)(1)(A) who are participating in
8 the program.

9 (B) Half the reasonable cost of a fitness
10 center membership for covered veterans within
11 the catchment area of centers selected under
12 subsection (d)(1)(B) who are participating in
13 the program.

14 (2) LIMITATION.—Payment for a fitness center
15 membership of a covered veteran may not exceed
16 \$50 per month of membership.

17 (g) REPORTS.—

18 (1) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Not later than 90
19 days after the date of the commencement of the pro-
20 gram and not less frequently than once every 90
21 days thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the
22 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
23 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
24 Representatives a report on activities carried out to

1 implement the program, including outreach activities
2 to veterans and community organizations.

3 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
4 after the date of the completion of the program, the
5 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
6 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
7 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a
8 report on the program detailing—

9 (A) the findings and conclusions of the
10 Secretary as a result of the program; and

11 (B) recommendations for the continuation
12 or expansion of the program.

13 (h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
14 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
15 ment of this Act.

16 **SEC. 313. PROGRAM ON HEALTH PROMOTION FOR VET-**
17 **ERANS THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF DE-**
18 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FITNESS**
19 **FACILITIES.**

20 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Commencing not later
21 than 180 days after the date on which this section takes
22 effect, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out
23 a program to assess the feasibility and advisability of pro-
24 moting health in covered veterans, including achieving a

1 healthy weight, through establishment of Department of
2 Veterans Affairs fitness facilities.

3 (b) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of this sec-
4 tion, a covered veteran is any veteran who is enrolled in
5 the system of annual patient enrollment established and
6 operated by the Secretary under section 1705 of title 38,
7 United States Code.

8 (c) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The program shall be
9 carried out during the three-year period beginning on the
10 date of the commencement of the program.

11 (d) LOCATIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
13 out the program by establishing fitness facilities in
14 Department facilities as follows:

15 (A) In not fewer than five Department of
16 Veterans Affairs medical centers selected by the
17 Secretary for purposes of the program.

18 (B) In not fewer than five outpatient clin-
19 ics of the Department selected by the Secretary
20 for purposes of the program.

21 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting locations
22 for the program, the Secretary shall consider the
23 feasibility and advisability of selecting locations in
24 the following areas:

25 (A) Rural areas.

1 (B) Areas that are not in close proximity
2 to an active duty military installation.

3 (C) Areas in different geographic locations.

4 (e) LIMITATION ON EXPENSES.—In establishing and
5 supporting a fitness facility in a facility of the Department
6 under the program, the Secretary may expend amounts
7 as follows:

8 (1) For establishment and support of a fitness
9 facility in a Department of Veterans Affairs medical
10 center, not more than \$60,000.

11 (2) For establishment and support of a fitness
12 facility in an outpatient clinic of the Department,
13 not more than \$40,000.

14 (f) REPURPOSING OF PHYSICAL SPACE AND PUR-
15 CHASES OF EQUIPMENT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (e),
17 the Secretary may, in carrying out the program, re-
18 purpose existing physical space of the Department
19 and purchase such fitness equipment and supplies as
20 the Secretary considers appropriate for purposes of
21 the program.

22 (2) REPURPOSING EXCEPTION.—Existing phys-
23 ical space used for the direct delivery of health care
24 to patients may not be repurposed under paragraph
25 (1).

1 (g) PROHIBITION ON ASSESSMENT OF USER FEES.—

2 The Secretary may not assess a fee upon a covered veteran
3 for use of a fitness facility established under the program.

4 (h) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The participation
5 of a covered veteran in the program shall be at the election
6 of the covered veteran.

7 (i) REPORTS.—

8 (1) PERIODIC REPORTS.—Not later than 90
9 days after the date of the commencement of the pro-
10 gram and not less frequently than once every 90
11 days thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the
12 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
13 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
14 Representatives a report on activities carried out to
15 implement the program, including outreach activities
16 to veterans and community organizations.

17 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
18 after the date of the completion of the program, the
19 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
20 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
21 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a
22 report on the program detailing—

23 (A) the findings and conclusions of the
24 Secretary as a result of the program; and

1 (B) recommendations for the continuation
2 or expansion of the program.

3 (j) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
4 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act.

6 **Subtitle B—Health Care**
7 **Administration**

8 **SEC. 321. EXTENSION OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
9 **FAIRS HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SCHOLAR-**
10 **SHIP PROGRAM.**

11 Section 7619 is amended by striking “December 31,
12 2014” and inserting “December 31, 2019”.

13 **SEC. 322. EXPANSION OF AVAILABILITY OF PROSTHETIC**
14 **AND ORTHOTIC CARE FOR VETERANS.**

15 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OR EXPANSION OF ADVANCED
16 DEGREE PROGRAMS TO EXPAND AVAILABILITY OF PRO-
17 VISION OF CARE.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
18 work with institutions of higher education to develop part-
19 nerships for the establishment or expansion of programs
20 of advanced degrees in prosthetics and orthotics in order
21 to improve and enhance the availability of high quality
22 prosthetic and orthotic care for veterans.

23 (b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
25 to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and

1 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives a report setting forth a plan for carrying out
3 subsection (a). The Secretary shall develop the plan in
4 consultation with veterans service organizations, institu-
5 tions of higher education with accredited degree programs
6 in prosthetics and orthotics, and representatives of the
7 prosthetics and orthotics field.

8 (c) FUNDING.—

9 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10 There is hereby authorized to be appropriated for
11 fiscal year 2015 for the Department of Veterans Af-
12 fairs, \$10,000,000 to carry out this section.

13 (2) AVAILABILITY.—The amount authorized to
14 be appropriated by paragraph (1) shall remain avail-
15 able for expenditure until September 30, 2017.

16 **SEC. 323. CONTRACTING FOR HEALTH CARE.**

17 (a) USE OF CAPITATION-BASED RESOURCE ALLOCA-
18 TION IN ENTRY INTO CONTRACTS.—In entering into con-
19 tracts for the furnishing of health care services under the
20 laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
21 (including under this title and the amendments made by
22 this title), the Secretary shall use the capitation-based re-
23 source allocation model of the Department of Veterans Af-
24 fairs.

1 (b) PRIORITY FOR CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN ENTI-
2 TIES.—In entering into contracts for the furnishing of
3 health care services under the laws administered by the
4 Secretary, the Secretary shall afford a priority for entry
5 into contracts for Federally Qualified Health Centers
6 (FQHCs) and Community Health Centers (CHCs), when-
7 ever appropriate.

8 (c) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall modify
9 the guidance of the Department of Veterans Affairs on
10 contracts for health care services in order to provide for
11 the incorporation into such contracts of standardized re-
12 quirements for such best practices under such contracts,
13 including the following:

14 (1) Requirements that contracts provide the
15 Department on a regular basis information on
16 scheduling and appearance for appointments for
17 health care on per-patient basis.

18 (2) Such other best practices requirements as
19 the Secretary considers appropriate.

20 (d) FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER DE-
21 FINED.—In this section the term “Federally Qualified
22 Health Center” means a Federally-qualified health center
23 as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security
24 Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2)(B)).

1 **SEC. 324. LIMITATION ON EXPANSION OF DIALYSIS PILOT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **LIMITATION.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
4 shall not expand the dialysis pilot program to, or expand
5 the capacity to provide additional dialysis care at, any fa-
6 cility owned or leased by the Department that is not an
7 initial facility until after the date that—

8 (1) the Secretary has implemented the dialysis
9 pilot program at each initial facility for a period of
10 not less than two years;

11 (2) an independent analysis of the dialysis pilot
12 program has been conducted at each initial facility,
13 including a consideration and comparison of factors
14 including—

15 (A) the ability of veterans to access care
16 under the dialysis pilot program;

17 (B) the quality of care provided under the
18 dialysis pilot program; and

19 (C) the satisfaction of veterans who have
20 received treatment under the dialysis pilot pro-
21 gram; and

22 (3) the report required by subsection (b) has
23 been submitted.

24 (b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date
25 of the completion of the independent analysis required by

1 subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall submit to Congress
2 a report that—

3 (1) includes the results of that independent
4 analysis; and

5 (2) addresses any recommendations with re-
6 spect to the dialysis pilot program provided in a re-
7 port prepared by the Government Accountability Of-
8 fice.

9 (c) UTILIZATION OF EXISTING DIALYSIS RE-
10 SOURCES.—In order to increase the access of veterans to
11 dialysis care and decrease the travel time of such veterans
12 to receive such care, the Secretary shall fully utilize exist-
13 ing dialysis resources of the Department, including any
14 community dialysis provider with which the Department
15 has entered into a contract or agreement for the provision
16 of such care.

17 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) DIALYSIS PILOT PROGRAM.—The term “di-
19 alysis pilot program” means the pilot demonstration
20 program established by the Secretary in 2009 to
21 provide dialysis care to patients at certain outpatient
22 facilities operated by the Department of Veterans
23 Affairs.

24 (2) INITIAL FACILITY.—The term “initial facil-
25 ity” means one of the four outpatient facilities iden-

1 tified by the Secretary to participate in the dialysis
 2 pilot program prior to the date of the enactment of
 3 this Act.

4 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
 5 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
 6 ment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 325. REQUIREMENT FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
 8 **AFFAIRS POLICY ON REPORTING CASES OF**
 9 **INFECTIOUS DISEASES AT FACILITIES OF**
 10 **THE DEPARTMENT.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 is
 12 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

13 **“§ 7330B. Reporting of infectious diseases**

14 “(a) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall ensure that
 15 the Department has in effect an up-to-date policy on re-
 16 porting a notifiable infectious disease diagnosed at a facil-
 17 ity under the jurisdiction of the Secretary in accordance
 18 with the provisions of State and local law in effect where
 19 such facility is located.

20 “(b) NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—For pur-
 21 poses of this section, a notifiable infectious disease is any
 22 infectious disease that is—

23 “(1) on the list of nationally notifiable diseases
 24 published by the Council of State and Territorial

1 Epidemiologists and the Centers for Disease Control
2 and Prevention; or

3 “(2) covered by a provision of law of a State
4 that requires the reporting of infectious diseases.

5 “(c) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The Secretary
6 shall develop performance measures to assess whether and
7 to what degree the directors of Veterans Integrated Serv-
8 ice Networks and Department medical centers are com-
9 plying with the policy required by subsection (a).”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
11 at the beginning of chapter 73 is amended by inserting
12 after the item relating to section 7330A the following new
13 item:

 “7330B. Reporting of infectious diseases.”.

14 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
15 this section shall take effect on the date that is one year
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 326. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE VETERANS**
18 **INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS AND MED-**
19 **ICAL CENTERS OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
20 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

21 (a) CONTRACT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
23 Affairs shall seek to enter into a contract with an
24 independent third-party to perform the services cov-
25 ered by this section.

1 (2) TIMING.—The Secretary shall seek to enter
2 into the contract described in paragraph (1) not
3 later than 540 days after the date of the enactment
4 of this Act.

5 (b) INDEPENDENT STUDY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under a contract between
7 the Secretary and an independent third-party under
8 this section, the third party shall carry out a
9 study—

10 (A) to assess the organizational structures
11 of medical centers of the Department of Vet-
12 erans Affairs; and

13 (B) to improve succession planning among
14 key leadership roles at Veterans Integrated
15 Service Networks and medical centers of the
16 Department.

17 (2) MATTERS STUDIED AND PROPOSED.—In
18 carrying out the study, the third party shall—

19 (A) assess whether the organizational
20 structure of the medical centers of the Depart-
21 ment is effective for the furnishing of medical
22 services, addressing issues that arise regarding
23 the furnishing of medical services, and address-
24 ing standard business operations;

1 (B) propose one organizational chart for
2 Department medical centers with a common set
3 of base position descriptions;

4 (C) propose a base set of medical positions
5 that should be filled to ensure that the health
6 care provided to veterans by the Department is
7 of good quality; and

8 (D) identify which key leadership positions
9 at Veterans Integrated Service Networks and
10 Department medical centers should have succes-
11 sion plans and propose how to implement such
12 plans.

13 (3) TIMING.—The third party shall complete
14 the study under this section not later than 270 days
15 after entering into the contract described in sub-
16 section (a).

17 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
18 on which the third party completes the study under this
19 section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
20 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-
21 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report
22 on the results of such study.

23 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
24 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
25 ment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 327. REQUIREMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH NEXT UP-**
2 **DATE OF CURRENT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR OF-**
3 **FICE OF RURAL HEALTH OF THE DEPART-**
4 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The first update of the Stra-
7 tegic Plan Refresh for Fiscal Years 2012 through
8 2014 of the Office of Rural Health of the Depart-
9 ment of Veterans Affairs after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, whether an update or refresh of
11 such Strategic Plan Refresh or a strategic plan to
12 supersede such Strategic Plan Refresh, shall be pre-
13 pared in accordance with this section.

14 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Director of the Of-
15 fice of Rural Health shall prepare the update in con-
16 sultation with the following:

17 (A) The Director of the Health Care Re-
18 tention and Recruitment Office of the Depart-
19 ment.

20 (B) The Director of the Office of Quality
21 and Performance of the Department.

22 (C) The Director of the Office of Care Co-
23 ordination Services of the Department.

24 (b) ELEMENTS.—The update described in subsection
25 (a) shall include, for the period covered by the update,
26 the following:

1 (1) Goals and objectives for the recruitment
2 and retention by the Veterans Health Administra-
3 tion of health care personnel in rural areas.

4 (2) Goals and objectives for ensuring timeliness
5 and improving quality in the delivery of health care
6 services by the Veterans Health Administration in
7 rural areas through contract and fee-basis providers.

8 (3) Goals and objectives for the implementation,
9 expansion, and enhanced use of telemedicine services
10 by the Veterans Health Administration in rural
11 areas, including through coordination with other ap-
12 propriate offices of the Department.

13 (4) Goals and objectives for ensuring the full
14 and effective use of mobile outpatient clinics by the
15 Veterans Health Administration for the provision of
16 health care services in rural areas, including goals
17 and objectives for the use of such clinics on a fully
18 mobile basis and for encouraging health care pro-
19 viders who provide services through such clinics to
20 do so in rural areas.

21 (5) Procedures for soliciting from each Vet-
22 erans Health Administration facility that serves a
23 rural area the following:

24 (A) A statement of the clinical capacity of
25 such facility.

1 (B) The procedures of such facility in the
2 event of a medical, surgical, or mental health
3 emergency outside the scope of the clinical ca-
4 pacity of such facility.

5 (C) The procedures and mechanisms of
6 such facility for the provision and coordination
7 of health care for women veterans, including
8 procedures and mechanisms for coordination
9 with local hospitals and health care facilities,
10 oversight of primary care and fee-basis care,
11 and management of specialty care.

12 (6) Goals and objectives for the modification of
13 the funding allocation mechanisms of the Office of
14 Rural Health in order to ensure that the Office dis-
15 tributes funds to components of the Department to
16 best achieve the goals and objectives of the Office
17 and in a timely manner.

18 (7) Goals and objectives for the coordination of,
19 and sharing of resources with respect to, the provi-
20 sion of health care services to veterans in rural areas
21 between the Department of Veterans Affairs, the
22 Department of Defense, the Indian Health Service
23 of the Department of Health and Human Services,
24 and other Federal agencies, as appropriate and pru-
25 dent.

1 (8) Specific milestones for the achievement of
2 the goals and objectives developed for the update.

3 (9) Procedures for ensuring the effective imple-
4 mentation of the update.

5 (c) TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90
6 days after the date of the issuance of the update described
7 in subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
8 transmit the update to Congress, together with such com-
9 ments and recommendations in connection with the update
10 as the Secretary considers appropriate.

11 **SEC. 328. REPORT ON PROVISION OF TELEMEDICINE SERV-**
12 **ICES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
15 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans'
16 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
17 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the fol-
18 lowing:

19 (1) Issues that may be impeding the provision
20 by the Department of Veterans Affairs of telemedi-
21 cine services for veterans, including the following:

22 (A) Statutory or regulatory restrictions.

23 (B) Licensure or credentialing issues for
24 any provider practicing telemedicine with vet-

1 erans who live in a different State than the pro-
2 vider.

3 (C) Limited broadband access in rural
4 areas.

5 (D) Limited information technology re-
6 sources or capabilities.

7 (E) Long distances veterans must travel to
8 access a facility or clinic with telemedicine ca-
9 pabilities.

10 (F) Insufficient liability protection for pro-
11 viders.

12 (G) Reimbursement issues faced by pro-
13 viders.

14 (H) Travel limitations for providers that
15 are unaffiliated with the Department and are
16 participating or seeking to participate in a tele-
17 medicine program of the Department.

18 (2) Actions taken to address the issues identi-
19 fied in paragraph (1).

20 (3) An update on efforts by the Department to
21 carry out the initiative of teleconsultation for the
22 provision of remote mental health and traumatic
23 brain injury assessments required by section 1709A
24 of title 38, United States Code.

1 (4) An update on efforts by the Department to
 2 offer training opportunities in telemedicine to med-
 3 ical residents, as required by section 108(b) of the
 4 Janey Ensminger Act (Public Law 112–154; 38
 5 U.S.C. 7406 note).

6 (5) An update on efforts by the Department to,
 7 in partnership with primary care providers, install
 8 video cameras and instruments to monitor weight,
 9 blood pressure, and other vital statistics in the
 10 homes of patients.

11 (b) **TELEMEDICINE DEFINED.**—In this section, the
 12 term “telemedicine” means the use by a health care pro-
 13 vider of telecommunications to assist in the diagnosis or
 14 treatment of a patient’s medical condition.

15 (c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section shall take effect
 16 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
 17 ment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 329. DESIGNATION OF CORPORAL MICHAEL J.**
 19 **CRESCENZ DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
 20 **FAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.**

21 (a) **DESIGNATION.**—The medical center of the De-
 22 partment of Veterans Affairs located at 3900 Woodland
 23 Avenue in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, shall after the date
 24 of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as

1 the “Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Vet-
 2 erans Affairs Medical Center”.

3 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regula-
 4 tion, map, document, paper, or other record of the United
 5 States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a)
 6 shall be considered to be a reference to the Corporal Mi-
 7 chael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical
 8 Center.

9 **Subtitle C—Complementary and** 10 **Alternative Medicine**

11 **SEC. 331. EXPANSION OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ON** 12 **AND DELIVERY OF COMPLEMENTARY AND** 13 **ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE TO VETERANS.**

14 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN TO EXPAND RE-
 15 SEARCH, EDUCATION, AND DELIVERY.—Not later than
 16 six months after the effective date specified in subsection
 17 (f), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop a plan
 18 to expand materially and substantially the scope of re-
 19 search and education on, and delivery and integration of,
 20 complementary and alternative medicine services into the
 21 health care services provided to veterans.

22 (b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by subsection (a)
 23 shall provide for the following:

24 (1) Research on the following:

1 (A) The comparative effectiveness of var-
2 ious complementary and alternative medicine
3 therapies.

4 (B) Approaches to integrating complemen-
5 tary and alternative medicine services into other
6 health care services provided by the Depart-
7 ment.

8 (2) Education and training for health care pro-
9 fessionals of the Department on the following:

10 (A) Complementary and alternative medi-
11 cine services selected by the Secretary for pur-
12 poses of the plan.

13 (B) Appropriate uses of such services.

14 (C) Integration of such services into the
15 delivery of health care to veterans.

16 (3) Research, education, and clinical activities
17 on complementary and alternative medicine at cen-
18 ters of innovation at Department medical centers.

19 (4) Identification or development of metrics and
20 outcome measures to evaluate the provision and inte-
21 gration of complementary and alternative medicine
22 services into the delivery of health care to veterans.

23 (5) Integration and delivery of complementary
24 and alternative medicine services with other health
25 care services provided by the Department.

1 (c) CONSULTATION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection
3 (a), the Secretary shall consult with the following:

4 (A) The Director of the National Center
5 on Complementary and Alternative Medicine of
6 the National Institutes of Health.

7 (B) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

8 (C) Institutions of higher education, pri-
9 vate research institutes, and individual re-
10 searchers with extensive experience in com-
11plementary and alternative medicine and the in-
12tegration of complementary and alternative
13medicine practices into the delivery of health
14care.

15 (D) Nationally recognized providers of
16complementary and alternative medicine.

17 (E) Such other officials, entities, and indi-
18viduals with expertise on complementary and al-
19ternative medicine as the Secretary considers
20appropriate.

21 (2) SCOPE OF CONSULTATION.—The Secretary
22shall undertake consultation under paragraph (1) in
23carrying out subsection (a) with respect to the fol-
24lowing:

25 (A) To develop the plan.

1 (B) To identify specific complementary and
2 alternative medicine practices that, on the basis
3 of research findings or promising clinical inter-
4 ventions, are appropriate to include as services
5 to veterans.

6 (C) To identify barriers to the effective
7 provision and integration of complementary and
8 alternative medicine services into the delivery of
9 health care to veterans, and to identify mecha-
10 nisms for overcoming such barriers.

11 (d) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-
12 priated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary
13 to carry out this section.

14 (e) COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE
15 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “complementary and
16 alternative medicine” shall have the meaning given that
17 term in regulations the Secretary shall prescribe for pur-
18 poses of this section, which shall, to the degree practicable,
19 be consistent with the meaning given such term by the
20 Secretary of Health and Human Services.

21 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
22 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 332. PROGRAM ON INTEGRATION OF COMPLEMEN-**
2 **TARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE WITHIN**
3 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MED-**
4 **ICAL CENTERS.**

5 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs shall—

7 (1) carry out, through the Office of Patient
8 Centered Care and Cultural Transformation of the
9 Department of Veterans Affairs, a program to as-
10 sess the feasibility and advisability of integrating the
11 delivery of complementary and alternative medicine
12 services selected by the Secretary with other health
13 care services provided by the Department for vet-
14 erans with mental health conditions, chronic pain
15 conditions, other chronic conditions, and such other
16 conditions as the Secretary determines appropriate;
17 and

18 (2) in developing the program, identify and re-
19 solve barriers to the provision of complementary and
20 alternative medicine services selected by the Sec-
21 retary and the integration of those services with
22 other health care services provided by the Depart-
23 ment.

24 (b) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The program shall be
25 carried out during the three-year period beginning on the
26 effective date specified in subsection (j).

1 (c) LOCATIONS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
3 out the program at not fewer than 15 separate De-
4 partment medical centers.

5 (2) POLYTRAUMA CENTERS.—Not less than two
6 of the medical centers designated under paragraph
7 (1) shall be located at polytrauma rehabilitation cen-
8 ters of the Department.

9 (3) SELECTION OF LOCATIONS.—In carrying
10 out the program, the Secretary shall select locations
11 that include the following areas:

12 (A) Rural areas.

13 (B) Areas that are not in close proximity
14 to an active duty military installation.

15 (C) Areas representing different geo-
16 graphic locations, such as census tracts estab-
17 lished by the Bureau of the Census.

18 (d) PROVISION OF SERVICES.—Under the program,
19 the Secretary shall provide covered services to covered vet-
20 erans by integrating complementary and alternative medi-
21 cine services with other services provided by the Depart-
22 ment at the medical centers designated under subsection
23 (c)(1).

24 (e) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of the pro-
25 gram, a covered veteran is any veteran who—

1 (1) has a mental health condition diagnosed by
2 a clinician of the Department;

3 (2) experiences chronic pain; or

4 (3) has a chronic condition being treated by a
5 clinician of the Department.

6 (f) COVERED SERVICES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the pro-
8 gram, covered services are services consisting of
9 complementary and alternative medicine as selected
10 by the Secretary.

11 (2) ADMINISTRATION OF SERVICES.—Covered
12 services shall be administered under the program as
13 follows:

14 (A) Covered services shall be administered
15 by clinicians employed by the Secretary for pur-
16 poses of this section who, to the extent prac-
17 ticable, shall provide services consisting of com-
18 plementary and alternative medicine, including
19 those clinicians who solely provide such services.

20 (B) Covered services shall be included as
21 part of the Patient Aligned Care Teams initia-
22 tive of the Office of Patient Care Services, Pri-
23 mary Care Program Office, in coordination with
24 the Office of Patient Centered Care and Cul-
25 tural Transformation.

1 (C) Covered services shall be made avail-
2 able to both—

3 (i) covered veterans with mental
4 health conditions, pain conditions, or
5 chronic conditions described in subsection
6 (e) who have received conventional treat-
7 ments from the Department for such con-
8 ditions; and

9 (ii) covered veterans with mental
10 health conditions, pain conditions, or
11 chronic conditions described in subsection
12 (e) who have not received conventional
13 treatments from the Department for such
14 conditions.

15 (g) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The participation
16 of a veteran in the program shall be at the election of
17 the veteran and in consultation with a clinician of the De-
18 partment.

19 (h) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

20 (1) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—Not later than 90
21 days after the date of the commencement of the pro-
22 gram and not less frequently than once every 90
23 days thereafter for the duration of the program, the
24 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
25 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on

1 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a
2 report on the efforts of the Secretary to carry out
3 the program, including a description of the outreach
4 conducted by the Secretary to veterans and commu-
5 nity organizations to inform such organizations
6 about the program.

7 (2) FINAL REPORT.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
9 days after the completion of the program, the
10 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
11 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
12 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
13 Representatives a report on the program.

14 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
15 under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
16 lowing:

17 (i) The findings and conclusions of
18 the Secretary with respect to the program,
19 including with respect to—

20 (I) the utilization and efficacy of
21 the complementary and alternative
22 medicine services established under
23 the program;

24 (II) an assessment of the benefit
25 of the program to covered veterans in

1 mental health diagnoses, pain man-
 2 agement, and treatment of chronic ill-
 3 ness; and

4 (III) the comparative effective-
 5 ness of various complementary and al-
 6 ternative medicine therapies.

7 (ii) Barriers identified under sub-
 8 section (a)(2) that were not resolved.

9 (iii) Such recommendations for the
 10 continuation or expansion of the program
 11 as the Secretary considers appropriate.

12 (i) COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE
 13 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “complementary and
 14 alternative medicine” shall have the meaning given that
 15 term in section 331(e) of this Act.

16 (j) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
 17 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
 18 ment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 333. STUDIES OF BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED BY VET-**
 20 **ERANS IN RECEIVING, AND ADMINISTRATORS**
 21 **AND CLINICIANS IN PROVIDING, COM-**
 22 **PLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE**
 23 **SERVICES FURNISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT**
 24 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

25 (a) STUDIES REQUIRED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
2 Affairs shall conduct comprehensive studies of the
3 barriers encountered by veterans in receiving, and
4 administrators and clinicians in providing, com-
5 plementary and alternative medicine services fur-
6 nished by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

7 (2) STUDIES CONDUCTED.—

8 (A) VETERANS.—In conducting the study
9 of veterans, the Secretary shall—

10 (i) survey veterans who seek or receive
11 hospital care or medical services furnished
12 by the Department, as well as veterans
13 who do not seek or receive such care or
14 services;

15 (ii) administer the survey to a rep-
16 resentative sample of veterans from each
17 Veterans Integrated Service Network; and

18 (iii) ensure that the sample of vet-
19 erans surveyed is of sufficient size for the
20 study results to be statistically significant.

21 (B) ADMINISTRATORS AND CLINICIANS.—
22 In conducting the study of clinicians and ad-
23 ministrators, the Secretary shall—

1 (i) survey administrators of the De-
 2 partment who are involved in the provision
 3 of health care services;

4 (ii) survey clinicians that have pro-
 5 vided complementary and alternative medi-
 6 cine services through the program estab-
 7 lished under section 332 of this Act, after
 8 those clinicians have provided those serv-
 9 ices through such program for at least 90
 10 days; and

11 (iii) administer the survey to adminis-
 12 trators under clause (i)—

13 (I) before the introduction of
 14 complementary and alternative medi-
 15 cine services through such program;
 16 and

17 (II) not earlier than 90 days
 18 after the introduction of complemen-
 19 tary and alternative medicine services
 20 through such program.

21 (b) ELEMENTS OF STUDIES.—

22 (1) VETERANS.—In conducting the study of
 23 veterans required by subsection (a), the Secretary
 24 shall study the following:

1 (A) The perceived barriers associated with
 2 obtaining complementary and alternative medi-
 3 cine services from the Department.

4 (B) The satisfaction of veterans with com-
 5 plementary and alternative medicine services in
 6 primary care.

7 (C) The degree to which veterans are
 8 aware of eligibility requirements for, and the
 9 scope of services available under, complemen-
 10 tary and alternative medicine services furnished
 11 by the Department.

12 (D) The effectiveness of outreach to vet-
 13 erans on the availability of complementary and
 14 alternative medicine for veterans.

15 (E) Such other barriers as the Secretary
 16 considers appropriate.

17 (2) ADMINISTRATORS AND CLINICIANS.—In
 18 conducting the study of administrators and clini-
 19 cians required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall
 20 study the following:

21 (A) The extent of the integration of com-
 22 plementary and alternative medicine services
 23 within the services provided by the Department.

24 (B) The perception by administrators and
 25 clinicians of the structural and attitudinal bar-

1 riers to the delivery of high quality complemen-
 2 tary and alternative medicine services by the
 3 Department.

4 (C) Strategies that have been used to re-
 5 duce or eliminate such barriers and the results
 6 of such strategies.

7 (D) The satisfaction of administrators and
 8 clinicians regarding the integration of com-
 9 plementary and alternative medicine services
 10 within the services provided by the Department.

11 (E) The perception by administrators and
 12 clinicians of the value of specific complementary
 13 and alternative medicine services for inpatient
 14 and outpatient veteran populations.

15 (c) DISCHARGE BY CONTRACT.—The Secretary shall
 16 enter into a contract with a qualified independent entity
 17 or organization to carry out the studies required by this
 18 section.

19 (d) MANDATORY REVIEW OF DATA BY THE NA-
 20 TIONAL RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure
 22 that the head of the National Research Advisory
 23 Council reviews the results of the studies conducted
 24 under this section.

1 (2) SUBMITTAL OF FINDINGS.—The head of the
2 National Research Advisory Council shall submit
3 findings with respect to the studies to the Under
4 Secretary for Health and to other pertinent program
5 offices within the Department with responsibilities
6 relating to health care services for veterans.

7 (e) REPORTS.—

8 (1) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later
9 than one year after the date of the enactment of this
10 Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
11 on the status of the implementation of this section.

12 (2) REPORT ON STUDY.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days
14 after the date of the completion of the study,
15 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
16 on the study required by subsection (a).

17 (B) CONTENTS.—The report required by
18 subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

19 (i) Recommendations for such admin-
20 istrative and legislative proposals and ac-
21 tions as the Secretary considers appro-
22 priate.

23 (ii) The findings of the head of the
24 National Research Advisory Council and of
25 the Under Secretary for Health.

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 2 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for the
 3 Department of Veterans Affairs, \$2,000,000 to carry out
 4 this section.

5 (g) COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE
 6 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “complementary and
 7 alternative medicine” shall have the meaning given that
 8 term in section 331(e) of this Act.

9 **SEC. 334. PROGRAM ON USE OF WELLNESS PROGRAMS AS**
 10 **COMPLEMENTARY APPROACH TO MENTAL**
 11 **HEALTH CARE FOR VETERANS AND FAMILY**
 12 **MEMBERS OF VETERANS.**

13 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
 15 Affairs shall carry out a program through the award
 16 of grants to public or private nonprofit entities to
 17 assess the feasibility and advisability of using
 18 wellness programs to complement the provision of
 19 mental health care to veterans and family members
 20 eligible for counseling under section 1712A(a)(1)(C)
 21 of title 38, United States Code.

22 (2) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—The pro-
 23 gram shall be carried out so as to assess the fol-
 24 lowing:

1 (A) Means of improving coordination be-
2 tween Federal, State, local, and community pro-
3 viders of health care in the provision of mental
4 health care to veterans and family members de-
5 scribed in paragraph (1).

6 (B) Means of enhancing outreach, and co-
7 ordination of outreach, by and among providers
8 of health care referred to in subparagraph (A)
9 on the mental health care services available to
10 veterans and family members described in para-
11 graph (1).

12 (C) Means of using wellness programs of
13 providers of health care referred to in subpara-
14 graph (A) as complements to the provision by
15 the Department of Veterans Affairs of mental
16 health care to veterans and family members de-
17 scribed in paragraph (1).

18 (D) Whether wellness programs described
19 in subparagraph (C) are effective in enhancing
20 the quality of life and well-being of veterans
21 and family members described in paragraph
22 (1).

23 (E) Whether wellness programs described
24 in subparagraph (C) are effective in increasing
25 the adherence of veterans described in para-

1 graph (1) to the primary mental health services
2 provided such veterans by the Department.

3 (F) Whether wellness programs described
4 in subparagraph (C) have an impact on the
5 sense of wellbeing of veterans described in para-
6 graph (1) who receive primary mental health
7 services from the Department.

8 (G) Whether wellness programs described
9 in subparagraph (C) are effective in encour-
10 aging veterans receiving health care from the
11 Department to adopt a more healthy lifestyle.

12 (b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the
13 program for a period of three years beginning on the date
14 that is one year after the date of the enactment of this
15 Act.

16 (c) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the
17 program at facilities of the Department providing mental
18 health care services to veterans and family members de-
19 scribed in subsection (a)(1).

20 (d) GRANT PROPOSALS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—A public or private nonprofit
22 entity seeking the award of a grant under this sec-
23 tion shall submit an application therefor to the Sec-
24 retary in such form and in such manner as the Sec-
25 retary may require.

1 (2) APPLICATION CONTENTS.—Each application
2 submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the fol-
3 lowing:

4 (A) A plan to coordinate activities under
5 the program, to the extent possible, with the
6 Federal, State, and local providers of services
7 for veterans to enhance the following:

8 (i) Awareness by veterans of benefits
9 and health care services provided by the
10 Department.

11 (ii) Outreach efforts to increase the
12 use by veterans of services provided by the
13 Department.

14 (iii) Educational efforts to inform vet-
15 erans of the benefits of a healthy and ac-
16 tive lifestyle.

17 (B) A statement of understanding from
18 the entity submitting the application that, if se-
19 lected, such entity will be required to report to
20 the Secretary periodically on standardized data
21 and other performance data necessary to evalu-
22 ate individual outcomes and to facilitate evalua-
23 tions among entities participating in the pro-
24 gram.

1 (C) Other requirements that the Secretary
2 may prescribe.

3 (e) GRANT USES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—A public or private nonprofit
5 entity awarded a grant under this section shall use
6 the award for purposes prescribed by the Secretary.

7 (2) ELIGIBLE VETERANS AND FAMILY.—In car-
8 rying out the purposes prescribed by the Secretary
9 in paragraph (1), a public or private nonprofit entity
10 awarded a grant under this section shall use the
11 award to furnish services only to individuals speci-
12 fied in section 1712A(a)(1)(C) of title 38, United
13 States Code.

14 (f) REPORTS.—

15 (1) PERIODIC REPORTS.—

16 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
17 days after the date of the commencement of the
18 program, and every 180 days thereafter, the
19 Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on
20 the program.

21 (B) REPORT ELEMENTS.—Each report re-
22 quired by subparagraph (A) shall include the
23 following:

24 (i) The findings and conclusions of
25 the Secretary with respect to the program

1 during the 180-day period preceding the
2 report.

3 (ii) An assessment of the benefits of
4 the program to veterans and their family
5 members during the 180-day period pre-
6 ceding the report.

7 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
8 after the end of the program, the Secretary shall
9 submit to Congress a report detailing the rec-
10 ommendations of the Secretary as to the advisability
11 of continuing or expanding the program.

12 (g) WELLNESS DEFINED.—In this section, the term
13 “wellness” has the meaning given that term in regulations
14 prescribed by the Secretary.

15 **Subtitle D—Mental Health Care**

16 **SEC. 341. INCLUSION OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS** 17 **IN THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM** 18 **FOR HEALTH PERSONNEL OF THE DEPART-** 19 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the education and
21 training program required under section 7302(a)(1) of
22 title 38, United States Code, the Secretary of Veterans
23 Affairs shall include education and training of marriage
24 and family therapists and licensed professional mental
25 health counselors.

1 (b) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall apportion fund-
 2 ing for the education and training program equally among
 3 the professions included in the program.

4 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
 5 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
 6 ment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 342. EDUCATION PROGRAM AND PEER SUPPORT PRO-**
 8 **GRAM FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND CARE-**
 9 **GIVERS OF VETERANS WITH MENTAL**
 10 **HEALTH DISORDERS.**

11 (a) PROGRAMS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
 13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
 14 retary of Veterans Affairs shall establish an edu-
 15 cation program (in this section referred to as the
 16 “education program”) and a peer support program
 17 (in this section referred to as the “peer support pro-
 18 gram”) for the education and training of family
 19 members and caregivers of eligible veterans with
 20 mental health disorders.

21 (2) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (A) FAMILY MEMBER; CAREGIVER.—The
 23 terms “family member” and “caregiver” have
 24 the meaning given those terms in section
 25 1720G(d) of title 38, United States Code.

1 (B) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—The term “eligi-
2 ble veteran” means a veteran who is enrolled in
3 the health care system established under section
4 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.

5 (b) EDUCATION PROGRAM.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under the education pro-
7 gram, the Secretary shall provide a course of edu-
8 cation to family members and caregivers of eligible
9 veterans on matters relating to coping with mental
10 health disorders in veterans.

11 (2) DURATION.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—The education program
13 shall be carried out during the four-year period
14 beginning on the date of the commencement of
15 the education program.

16 (B) AUTHORITY FOR EXTENSION.—The
17 Secretary may extend the duration of the edu-
18 cation program for an additional four years.

19 (3) LOCATIONS.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as required by
21 subparagraph (D), the Secretary shall carry out
22 the education program at the following facilities
23 of the Department of Veterans Affairs:

24 (i) Not less than 10 medical centers of
25 the Department.

1 (ii) Not less than 10 clinics of the De-
2 partment.

3 (iii) Not less than 10 Vet Centers (as
4 defined in section 1712A(h) of title 38,
5 United States Code).

6 (B) SOLICITATION OF APPLICATIONS.—In
7 selecting locations for the education program,
8 the Secretary shall solicit applications from eli-
9 gible facilities of the Department that are inter-
10 ested in carrying out the education program.

11 (C) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting loca-
12 tions for the education program, the Secretary
13 shall consider the feasibility and advisability of
14 selecting locations in the following areas:

15 (i) Rural areas.

16 (ii) Areas that are not in close prox-
17 imity to an active duty installation.

18 (iii) Areas in different geographic lo-
19 cations.

20 (D) EXPANSION OF LOCATIONS.—Not later
21 than two years after the date of the commence-
22 ment of the education program, the Secretary
23 shall expand the number of facilities at which
24 the Secretary is carrying out the education pro-
25 gram to include the following:

1 (i) Not less than 10 additional med-
2 ical centers of the Department.

3 (ii) Not less than 10 additional clinics
4 of the Department.

5 (iii) Not less than 10 additional Vet
6 Centers.

7 (4) CONTRACTS.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the
9 education program, the Secretary shall enter
10 into contracts with qualified entities described
11 in subparagraph (B) to offer the course of edu-
12 cation described in paragraph (5) to family
13 members and caregivers of eligible veterans and
14 covered veterans.

15 (B) QUALIFIED ENTITY DESCRIBED.—A
16 qualified entity described in this subparagraph
17 is a non-profit entity with experience in mental
18 health education and outreach, including work
19 with children, teens, and young adults, that—

20 (i) uses high quality, relevant, and
21 age-appropriate information in educational
22 programming, materials, and coursework,
23 including such programming, materials,
24 and coursework for children, teens, and
25 young adults; and

1 (ii) works with agencies, departments,
2 nonprofit mental health organizations,
3 early childhood educators, and mental
4 health providers to develop educational
5 programming, materials, and coursework.

6 (C) PRIORITY.—In entering into contracts
7 under this paragraph, the Secretary shall give
8 priority to qualified entities that, to the max-
9 imum extent practicable, use Internet tech-
10 nology for the delivery of course content in an
11 effort to expand the availability of support serv-
12 ices, especially in rural areas.

13 (5) ELEMENTS.—The course of education de-
14 scribed in this paragraph shall consist of not less
15 than 10 weeks of education and shall include the fol-
16 lowing:

17 (A) General education on different mental
18 health disorders, including information to im-
19 prove understanding of the experiences of indi-
20 viduals suffering from those disorders.

21 (B) Techniques for handling crisis situa-
22 tions and administering mental health first aid
23 to individuals suffering from mental health dis-
24 orders.

1 (C) Techniques for coping with the stress
2 of living with someone with a mental health dis-
3 order.

4 (D) Information on additional services
5 available for family members and caregivers
6 through the Department or community organi-
7 zations and providers related to mental health
8 disorders.

9 (E) Such other matters as the Secretary
10 considers appropriate.

11 (6) INSTRUCTORS.—

12 (A) TRAINING.—Each instructor of the
13 course of education described in paragraph (5)
14 shall maintain a level of proficiency in the
15 course of education as determined by the Sec-
16 retary, and shall submit proof of that level of
17 proficiency to the Secretary at such time and in
18 such manner as the Secretary determines ap-
19 propriate.

20 (B) INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE COMPLETED
21 THE COURSE AS INSTRUCTORS.—Commencing
22 as of the date that is two years after the date
23 of the commencement of the education pro-
24 gram, any individual who has successfully com-
25 pleted the course of education described in

1 paragraph (5) and has successfully completed
2 such additional training as is required for in-
3 structors pursuant to subparagraph (A) may
4 act as an instructor in the course of education.

5 (c) PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under the peer support pro-
7 gram, the Secretary shall provide peer support to
8 family members and caregivers of eligible veterans
9 on matters relating to coping with mental health dis-
10 orders in veterans.

11 (2) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall provide
12 peer support under the peer support program at
13 each location at which the Secretary provides edu-
14 cation under the education program.

15 (3) ELEMENTS.—Peer support under the peer
16 support program shall consist of meetings in group
17 settings between a peer support coordinator under
18 paragraph (4) and family members and caregivers of
19 eligible veterans on matters relating to coping with
20 mental health disorders in veterans. At each loca-
21 tion, those meetings shall be conducted not less
22 often than twice each calendar quarter.

23 (4) PEER SUPPORT COORDINATOR.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
25 through the director of each participating facil-

1 ity, may select an individual who has success-
2 fully completed the course of education de-
3 scribed in subsection (b)(5) to serve as a peer
4 support coordinator for each such facility to
5 carry out the peer support program.

6 (B) PROFICIENCY OF INSTRUCTORS.—

7 Each peer support coordinator shall maintain a
8 level of proficiency in peer support as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary, and shall submit proof
10 of that level of proficiency to the Secretary at
11 such time and in such manner as the Secretary
12 determines appropriate.

13 (d) SURVEYS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct
15 a comprehensive and statistically significant survey
16 of the satisfaction of individuals that have partici-
17 pated in the course of education described in sub-
18 section (b)(5) and individuals that have participated
19 in the peer support program that includes the fol-
20 lowing:

21 (A) The general satisfaction of those indi-
22 viduals with the education and assistance pro-
23 vided in the education program and the peer
24 support program.

1 (B) The perceived effectiveness of the edu-
2 cation program and the peer support program
3 in providing education and assistance that is
4 useful for those individuals.

5 (C) The applicability of the education pro-
6 gram and the peer support program to the
7 issues faced by those individuals.

8 (D) Such other matters as the Secretary
9 considers appropriate.

10 (E) A representative sample of the infor-
11 mation required by subparagraphs (A) through
12 (D) from each Veterans Integrated Service Net-
13 work that is participating in the education pro-
14 gram and the peer support program.

15 (2) COMPILATION OF INFORMATION.—The in-
16 formation compiled as a result of the surveys re-
17 quired by paragraph (1) shall be included in the an-
18 nual report required by subsection (e)(1).

19 (e) REPORTS.—

20 (1) ANNUAL REPORT.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
22 after the date of the commencement of the edu-
23 cation program and not later than September
24 30 each year thereafter until 2017, the Sec-
25 retary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-

1 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee
2 on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Represent-
3 atives a report on the education program and
4 the peer support program.

5 (B) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted
6 under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
7 lowing:

8 (i) The number of individuals that
9 participated in the course of education de-
10 scribed in subsection (b)(5) during the
11 year preceding the submission of the re-
12 port.

13 (ii) The number of individuals that
14 participated in the peer support program
15 during the year preceding the submission
16 of the report.

17 (iii) A detailed analysis of the surveys
18 conducted under subsection (d) with re-
19 spect to the individuals described in clause
20 (i) and (ii).

21 (iv) The degree to which veterans and
22 family members and caregivers of veterans
23 are aware of the eligibility requirements
24 for enrollment in the education program
25 and the peer support program.

1 (v) Any plans for expansion of the
2 education program and the peer support
3 program.

4 (vi) The interim findings and conclu-
5 sions of the Secretary with respect to the
6 success of the education program and the
7 peer support program.

8 (2) FINAL REPORT.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
10 after the completion of the education program,
11 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
12 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
13 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
14 Representatives a report on the feasibility and
15 advisability of continuing the education pro-
16 gram and the peer support program.

17 (B) ELEMENTS.—The report submitted
18 under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
19 lowing:

20 (i) A detailed analysis of the surveys
21 conducted under subsection (d).

22 (ii) The feasibility and advisability of
23 continuing the education program without
24 entering into contracts for the course of
25 education described in subsection (b)(5)

1 and instead using peer support coordina-
2 tors selected under subsection (c)(4) as in-
3 structors of the course of education.

4 (iii) The feasibility and advisability of
5 expanding the education program and the
6 peer support program.

7 **SEC. 343. REPORT ON PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH**
8 **SERVICES FOR FAMILIES OF CERTAIN VET-**
9 **ERANS AT FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT.**

10 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
12 submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Sen-
13 ate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House
14 of Representatives a report on the feasibility and advis-
15 ability of providing services under the program established
16 by section 304(a) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus
17 Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111-163; 38
18 U.S.C. 1712A note) at medical facilities of the Depart-
19 ment of Veterans Affairs.

20 **SEC. 344. ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMUNITY MENTAL**
21 **HEALTH PARTNERSHIP PILOT PROGRAM.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act and not later than Sep-
24 tember 30 each year thereafter until the completion of the
25 pilot program described in subsection (b), the Secretary

1 of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
2 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-
3 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report
4 on that pilot program.

5 (b) PILOT PROGRAM DESCRIBED.—The pilot pro-
6 gram described in this subsection is the pilot program con-
7 ducted by the Veterans Health Administration to connect
8 medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs
9 with community-based mental health care providers and
10 substance abuse treatment providers for the purpose of
11 assisting in the treatment of veterans with mental health
12 disorders, commonly known as the “Community Mental
13 Health Partnership Pilot”.

14 (c) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under sub-
15 section (a) shall include the following:

16 (1) The number of sites participating in the
17 pilot program.

18 (2) The number of individuals participating in
19 the pilot program at each site.

20 (3) A detailed assessment of the effectiveness
21 of, the participation of veterans in, and the satisfac-
22 tion of veterans with the pilot program.

23 (4) An analysis of barriers to the effectiveness
24 of, the participation of veterans in, and the satisfac-
25 tion of veterans with the pilot program.

1 (5) A description of the plans of the Secretary
 2 to conduct outreach and provide information to vet-
 3 erans and community mental health providers with
 4 respect to the pilot program.

5 (6) A description of any plans to expand the
 6 pilot program, including plans that focus on the
 7 unique needs of veterans located in rural areas.

8 (7) An explanation of how the care provided
 9 under the pilot program is consistent with the min-
 10 imum clinical mental health guidelines promulgated
 11 by the Veterans Health Administration, including
 12 clinical guidelines contained in the Uniform Mental
 13 Health Services Handbook of such Administration.

14 **Subtitle E—Dental Care Eligibility**
 15 **Expansion and Enhancement**

16 **SEC. 351. RESTORATIVE DENTAL SERVICES FOR VETERANS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1710(c) is amended—

18 (1) in the second sentence—

19 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
 20 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively; and

21 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
 22 (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively;
 23 (2) by inserting “(1)” after “(c)”;

24 (3) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting
 25 the following:

1 “(2) The Secretary”; and

2 (4) by adding at the end the following new
3 paragraph:

4 “(3) In addition to the dental services, treatment,
5 and appliances authorized to be furnished by paragraph
6 (2), the Secretary may furnish dental services and treat-
7 ment, and dental appliances, needed to restore functioning
8 in a veteran that is lost as a result of any services or treat-
9 ment furnished under this subsection.”.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
11 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is one
12 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 352. PILOT PROGRAM ON EXPANSION OF FURNISHING**
14 **OF DENTAL CARE TO ALL ENROLLED VET-**
15 **ERANS.**

16 (a) PILOT PROGRAM REQUIRED.—Commencing not
17 later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of
18 this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out
19 a pilot program to assess the feasibility and advisability
20 of furnishing dental care to veterans enrolled in the system
21 of patient enrollment under section 1705 of title 38,
22 United States Code, who are not eligible for dental serv-
23 ices and treatment, and related dental appliances, under
24 current authorities.

1 (b) DURATION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—The pilot pro-
2 gram shall be carried out during the three-year period be-
3 ginning on the date of the commencement of the pilot pro-
4 gram.

5 (c) LOCATIONS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
7 out the pilot program at not fewer than 16 locations
8 as follows:

9 (A) Four Department of Veterans Affairs
10 medical centers with an established dental clin-
11 ic.

12 (B) Four Department medical centers with
13 a current contract for the furnishing of dental
14 care.

15 (C) Four Community-Based Outpatient
16 Clinics (CBOCs) with space available for the
17 furnishing of services and treatment under the
18 pilot program.

19 (D) Four facilities selected from among
20 Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)
21 and Indian Health Service facilities with estab-
22 lished dental clinics, of which—

23 (i) at least one facility shall be such
24 an Indian Health Service facility; and

1 (ii) any Indian Health Service facility
2 so selected shall be selected in consultation
3 with the Secretary of Health and Human
4 Services.

5 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting locations
6 for the pilot program, the Secretary shall consider
7 the feasibility and advisability of selecting locations
8 in each of the following:

9 (A) Rural areas.

10 (B) Areas that are not in close proximity
11 to an active duty military installation.

12 (C) Areas representing different geo-
13 graphic locations, such as census tracts estab-
14 lished by the Bureau of Census.

15 (d) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING
16 VETERANS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The total number of eligible
18 veterans who may participate in the pilot program
19 may not exceed 30,000.

20 (2) DISTRIBUTION OF LIMITATION.—In apply-
21 ing the limitation in paragraph (1) to the pilot pro-
22 gram, the Secretary shall distribute the limitation
23 across and among locations selected for the pilot
24 program in a manner that takes appropriate account

1 of the size and need of veterans for dental services
2 at each such location.

3 (e) SCOPE OF SERVICES.—The dental services and
4 treatment furnished to veterans under the pilot program
5 shall be consistent with the dental services and treatment
6 furnished by the Secretary to veterans with service-con-
7 nected disabilities rated 100 percent disabling under the
8 laws administered by the Secretary.

9 (f) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The participation
10 of a veteran in the pilot program shall be at the election
11 of the veteran.

12 (g) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF SERVICES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The total amount the Sec-
14 retary may expend furnishing dental services and
15 treatment to a veteran participating in the pilot pro-
16 gram during any one-year period may not exceed
17 such amount as the Secretary determines appro-
18 priate. The amount so determined may not be less
19 than \$1,000.

20 (2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall make
21 the determination under paragraph (1)—

22 (A) in consultation with the Director of the
23 Indian Health Service; and

24 (B) in consultation with the Director of
25 the Health Resources and Services Administra-

1 tion of the Department of Health and Human
2 Services if one or more Federally Qualified
3 Health Center is selected as a location for the
4 pilot program under subsection (c)(1)(D).

5 (h) COPAYMENTS.—The Secretary may collect copay-
6 ments for dental services and treatment furnished under
7 the pilot program in accordance with authorities on the
8 collection of copayments for medical care of veterans
9 under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code.

10 (i) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—

11 (1) NOTICE TO ELIGIBLE VETERANS ON PILOT
12 PROGRAM.—In carrying out the pilot program, the
13 Secretary shall inform all veterans eligible to partici-
14 pate in the pilot program of the services and treat-
15 ment available under the pilot program.

16 (2) CONTRACTS.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
17 gram, the Secretary may enter into contracts with
18 appropriate entities for the provision of dental serv-
19 ices and treatment under the pilot program. Each
20 such contract shall specify performance standards
21 and metrics and processes for ensuring compliance
22 of the contractor concerned with such performance
23 standards.

24 (j) REPORTS.—

25 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORTS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than each of
2 540 days and three years after the date of the
3 commencement of the pilot program, the Sec-
4 retary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
5 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee
6 on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Represent-
7 atives a report on the pilot program.

8 (B) CONTENTS.—Each report under sub-
9 paragraph (A) shall include the following:

10 (i) A description of the implementa-
11 tion and operation of the pilot program.

12 (ii) The number of veterans receiving
13 services and treatment under the pilot pro-
14 gram, and a description of the dental serv-
15 ices and treatment furnished to such vet-
16 erans.

17 (iii) An analysis of the costs and bene-
18 fits of the pilot program, including a com-
19 parison of costs and benefits by location
20 type.

21 (iv) An assessment of the impact of
22 the pilot program on medical care,
23 wellness, employability, and perceived qual-
24 ity of life of veterans.

1 (v) The current findings and conclu-
 2 sions of the Secretary with respect to the
 3 pilot program.

4 (vi) Such recommendations for the
 5 continuation or expansion of the pilot pro-
 6 gram as the Secretary considers appro-
 7 priate.

8 (2) FINAL REPORT.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
 10 days after the completion of the pilot program,
 11 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
 12 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
 13 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
 14 Representatives a report on the pilot program.

15 (B) CONTENTS.—The report under sub-
 16 paragraph (A) shall include the following:

17 (i) The findings and conclusions of
 18 the Secretary with respect to the pilot pro-
 19 gram.

20 (ii) Such recommendations for the
 21 continuation or expansion of the pilot pro-
 22 gram as the Secretary considers appro-
 23 priate.

24 (k) FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER DE-
 25 FINED.—In this section the term “Federally Qualified

1 Health Center” means a Federally-qualified health center
2 as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2)(B)).

4 (l) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
5 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 353. PROGRAM ON EDUCATION TO PROMOTE DENTAL**
8 **HEALTH IN VETERANS.**

9 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
11 Affairs shall carry out a program of education to
12 promote dental health for veterans who are enrolled
13 in the system of patient enrollment of the Depart-
14 ment of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title
15 38, United States Code.

16 (2) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the program
17 shall be deemed to alter or revise the eligibility of
18 any veteran for dental care under the laws adminis-
19 tered by the Secretary.

20 (b) ELEMENTS.—The program required by sub-
21 section (a) shall provide education for veterans on the fol-
22 lowing:

23 (1) The association between dental health and
24 overall health and well-being.

25 (2) Proper techniques for dental care.

1 (3) Signs and symptoms of commonly occurring
2 dental conditions.

3 (4) Treatment options for commonly occurring
4 dental issues.

5 (5) Options for obtaining access to dental care,
6 including information on eligibility for dental care
7 through the Department and on purchasing private
8 dental insurance.

9 (6) Available and accessible options for obtain-
10 ing low or no-cost dental care, including through
11 dental schools and Federally Qualified Health Cen-
12 ters (FQHCs).

13 (7) Such other matters relating to dental health
14 as the Secretary considers appropriate.

15 (c) DELIVERY OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
17 educational materials to veterans under the program
18 required by subsection (a) through a variety of
19 mechanisms, including the following:

20 (A) The availability and distribution of
21 print materials at Department facilities (includ-
22 ing at medical centers, clinics, Vet Centers, and
23 readjustment counseling centers) and to pro-
24 viders (including members of Patient Aligned
25 Care Teams).

1 (B) The availability and distribution of
 2 materials over the Internet, including through
 3 webinars and My Health *eVet*.

4 (C) Presentations of information, including
 5 both small group and large group presentations.

6 (2) SELECTION OF MECHANISMS.—In selecting
 7 mechanisms for purposes of this subsection, the Sec-
 8 retary shall select mechanisms designed to maximize
 9 the number of veterans who receive education under
 10 the program.

11 (d) FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER DE-
 12 FINED.—In this section the term “Federally Qualified
 13 Health Center” means a Federally-qualified health center
 14 as defined in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security
 15 Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(l)(2)(B)).

16 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
 17 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
 18 ment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 354. INFORMATION ON DENTAL SERVICES FOR INCLU-**
 20 **SION IN ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS**
 21 **UNDER DENTAL INSURANCE PILOT PRO-**
 22 **GRAM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than 540
 24 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
 25 retary of Veterans Affairs shall expand the dental insur-

1 ance pilot program established by section 17.169 of title
2 38, Code of Federal Regulations, to establish a mechanism
3 by which private sector dental care providers shall forward
4 to the Department of Veterans Affairs information on
5 dental care furnished to individuals under the pilot pro-
6 gram for inclusion in the electronic medical records of the
7 Department with respect to such individuals.

8 (b) CONSTRUCTION WITH CURRENT PILOT PROGRAM
9 REQUIREMENTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section shall
11 be construed to revise eligibility for participation in,
12 or the locations of, the pilot program referred to in
13 subsection (a).

14 (2) DURATION.—The Secretary may continue
15 the pilot program for two years in addition to the
16 duration otherwise provided for the pilot program in
17 section 17.169 of title 38, Code of Federal Regula-
18 tions, if the Secretary determines that the continu-
19 ation is needed to assess the mechanism required by
20 subsection (a).

21 (3) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION IN MECHA-
22 NISM.—The participation in the mechanism required
23 by subsection (a) of an individual otherwise partici-
24 pating in the pilot program shall be at the election
25 of the individual.

1 (c) INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON MECHANISM IN
2 REPORTS.—Each report to Congress on the pilot program
3 after the date of the commencement of the mechanism re-
4 quired by subsection (a) shall include information on the
5 mechanism, including a current assessment of the
6 feasability and advisability of using the mechanism to in-
7 clude information on dental care furnished individuals in
8 the electronic medical records of the Department with re-
9 spect to such individuals.

10 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
11 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 355. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 There is authorized to be appropriated for the De-
15 partment of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2015
16 \$305,000,000 to carry out this subtitle and the amend-
17 ments made by this subtitle. The amount so authorized
18 to be appropriated shall be available for obligation for the
19 five-year period beginning on the date that is one year
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **Subtitle F—Health Care Related to**
 2 **Sexual Trauma**

3 **SEC. 361. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR SEXUAL TRAUMA**
 4 **COUNSELING AND TREATMENT TO VET-**
 5 **ERANS ON INACTIVE DUTY TRAINING.**

6 Section 1720D(a)(1) is amended by striking “or ac-
 7 tive duty for training” and inserting “, active duty for
 8 training, or inactive duty training”.

9 **SEC. 362. PROVISION OF COUNSELING AND TREATMENT**
 10 **FOR SEXUAL TRAUMA BY THE DEPARTMENT**
 11 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO MEMBERS OF THE**
 12 **ARMED FORCES.**

13 (a) EXPANSION OF COVERAGE TO MEMBERS OF THE
 14 ARMED FORCES.—Subsection (a) of section 1720D is
 15 amended—

16 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
 17 graph (3);

18 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
 19 lowing new paragraph (2):

20 “(2)(A) In operating the program required by para-
 21 graph (1), the Secretary may, in consultation with the
 22 Secretary of Defense, provide counseling and care and
 23 services to members of the Armed Forces (including mem-
 24 bers of the National Guard and Reserves) on active duty

1 to overcome psychological trauma described in that para-
 2 graph.

3 “(B) A member described in subparagraph (A) shall
 4 not be required to obtain a referral before receiving coun-
 5 seling and care and services under this paragraph.”; and

6 (3) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by para-
 7 graph (1)—

8 (A) by striking “a veteran” and inserting
 9 “an individual”; and

10 (B) by striking “that veteran” each place
 11 it appears and inserting “that individual”.

12 (b) INFORMATION TO MEMBERS ON AVAILABILITY OF
 13 COUNSELING AND SERVICES.—Subsection (c) of such sec-
 14 tion is amended—

15 (1) by striking “to veterans” each place it ap-
 16 pears; and

17 (2) in paragraph (3), by inserting “members of
 18 the Armed Forces and” before “individuals”.

19 (c) INCLUSION OF MEMBERS IN REPORTS ON COUN-
 20 SELING AND SERVICES.—Subsection (e) of such section
 21 is amended—

22 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
 23 striking “to veterans”;

24 (2) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) by striking “women veterans” and in-
 2 serting “individuals”; and

3 (B) by striking “training under subsection
 4 (d).” and inserting “training under subsection
 5 (d), disaggregated by—

6 “(A) veterans;

7 “(B) members of the Armed Forces (in-
 8 cluding members of the National Guard and
 9 Reserves) on active duty; and

10 “(C) for each of subparagraphs (A) and
 11 (B)—

12 “(i) men; and

13 “(ii) women.”;

14 (3) in paragraph (4), by striking “veterans”
 15 and inserting “individuals”; and

16 (4) in paragraph (5)—

17 (A) by striking “women veterans” and in-
 18 serting “individuals” ; and

19 (B) by inserting “, including specific rec-
 20 ommendations for individuals specified in sub-
 21 paragraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (2)”
 22 before the period at the end.

23 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 24 this section shall take effect on the date that is one year
 25 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 363. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SCREEN-**
2 **ING MECHANISM TO DETECT INCIDENTS OF**
3 **DOMESTIC ABUSE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
6 erans Affairs shall develop and implement a screening
7 mechanism to be used when a veteran seeks healthcare
8 services from the Department of Veterans Affairs to detect
9 if the veteran has been a victim of domestic abuse for pur-
10 poses of improving the treatment of the veteran and as-
11 sessing the prevalence of domestic abuse in the veteran
12 population.

13 (b) READILY AVAILABLE SCREENING TOOLS.—In de-
14 veloping and implementing a screening mechanism under
15 subsection (a), the Secretary may incorporate into the
16 screening mechanism such readily available screening tools
17 as the Secretary considers appropriate for the screening
18 mechanism.

19 (c) DOMESTIC ABUSE DEFINED.—In this section, the
20 term “domestic abuse” means behavior with respect to an
21 individual that—

22 (1) constitutes—

23 (A) a pattern of behavior resulting in phys-
24 ical or emotional abuse, economic control, or in-
25 terference with the personal liberty of that indi-
26 vidual;

1 (B) a violation of Federal or State law in-
 2 volving the use, attempted use, or threatened
 3 use of force or violence against that individual;
 4 or

5 (C) a violation of a lawful order issued for
 6 the protection of that individual; and

7 (2) is committed by a person who—

8 (A) is a current or former spouse or do-
 9 mestic partner of that individual;

10 (B) shares a child in common with that in-
 11 dividual;

12 (C) is a current or former intimate partner
 13 of that individual that shares or has shared a
 14 common domicile with that individual;

15 (D) is a caregiver or family caregiver of
 16 that individual (as such terms are defined in
 17 section 1720G(d) of title 38, United States
 18 Code); or

19 (E) is in any other type of relationship
 20 with that individual that the Secretary may
 21 specify for purposes of this section.

22 **SEC. 364. REPORTS ON MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA AND DO-**
 23 **MESTIC ABUSE.**

24 (a) REPORT ON SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR MILITARY
 25 SEXUAL TRAUMA IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS

1 AFFAIRS.—Not later than 630 days after the date of the
2 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
3 shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
4 Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
5 House of Representatives a report on the treatment and
6 services available from the Department of Veterans Af-
7 fairs for male veterans who experience military sexual
8 trauma compared to such treatment and services available
9 to female veterans who experience military sexual trauma.

10 (b) REPORT ON DOMESTIC ABUSE AMONG VET-
11 ERANS.—Not later than two years after the implementa-
12 tion of the screening mechanism required by section
13 363(a) of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and
14 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting
15 through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control
16 and Prevention, shall jointly submit to the Committee on
17 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-
18 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report
19 on domestic abuse among veterans that includes the fol-
20 lowing:

21 (1) A summary of the types, outcomes, and cir-
22 cumstances of incidents of domestic abuse that have
23 been reported by veterans during the two-year period
24 preceding the submission of the report.

1 (2) A summary of the treatments available from
2 the Department of Veterans Affairs for veterans who
3 experience domestic abuse and an assessment of the
4 effectiveness of those treatments.

5 (3) Data and analysis on any correlation be-
6 tween an incident of military sexual trauma or sex-
7 ual trauma experienced after the age of 18 and do-
8 mestic abuse.

9 (4) Any other issues that the Secretary of Vet-
10 erans Affairs or the Director of the Centers for Dis-
11 ease Control and Prevention determines appropriate.

12 (c) REPORTS ON TRANSITION OF MILITARY SEXUAL
13 TRAUMA AND DOMESTIC ABUSE TREATMENT FROM DE-
14 PARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
15 AFFAIRS.—Not later than 630 days after the date of the
16 enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for five
17 years, the Department of Veterans Affairs-Department of
18 Defense Joint Executive Committee established by section
19 320(a) of title 38, United States Code, shall submit to
20 the appropriate committees of Congress a report on mili-
21 tary sexual trauma and domestic abuse that includes the
22 following:

23 (1) The processes and procedures utilized by
24 the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Depart-
25 ment of Defense to facilitate transition of treatment

1 of individuals who have experienced military sexual
2 trauma or domestic abuse from treatment provided
3 by the Department of Defense to treatment provided
4 by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

5 (2) A description and assessment of the collabo-
6 ration between the Department of Veterans Affairs
7 and the Department of Defense in assisting veterans
8 in filing claims for disabilities related to military
9 sexual trauma or domestic abuse, including permit-
10 ting veterans access to information and evidence
11 necessary to develop or support such claims.

12 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
14 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
15 gress” means—

16 (A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
17 and the Committee on Armed Services of the
18 Senate; and

19 (B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
20 and the Committee on Armed Services of the
21 House of Representatives.

22 (2) DOMESTIC ABUSE.—The term “domestic
23 abuse” has the meaning given that term in section
24 363(c) of this Act.

1 (3) MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term
2 “military sexual trauma” means psychological trauma,
3 which in the judgment of a mental health professional
4 employed by the Department, resulted from
5 a physical assault of a sexual nature, battery of a
6 sexual nature, or sexual harassment which occurred
7 while the veteran was serving on active duty or active
8 duty for training.

9 (4) SEXUAL HARASSMENT.—The term “sexual
10 harassment” means repeated, unsolicited verbal or
11 physical contact of a sexual nature which is threatening
12 in character.

13 (5) SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term “sexual trauma”
14 shall have the meaning given that term by the
15 Secretary of Veterans Affairs for purposes of this
16 section.

17 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
18 on the date that is 270 days after the date of the enactment
19 of this Act.

Subtitle G—Reproductive Treatment and Services

**SEC. 371. CLARIFICATION THAT FERTILITY COUNSELING
AND TREATMENT ARE MEDICAL SERVICES
WHICH THE SECRETARY MAY FURNISH TO
VETERANS LIKE OTHER MEDICAL SERVICES.**

Section 1701(6), as amended by section 305(b)(1) of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(I) Fertility counseling and treatment, including treatment using assisted reproductive technology.”.

**SEC. 372. REPRODUCTIVE TREATMENT AND CARE FOR
SPOUSES AND SURROGATES OF VETERANS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VIII of chapter 17 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 1788. Reproductive treatment and care for spouses
and surrogates of veterans**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall furnish fertility counseling and treatment, including through the use of assisted reproductive technology, to a spouse or surrogate of a severely wounded, ill, or injured veteran who has an infertility condition incurred or aggravated in line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service and who is enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment es-

1 tablished under section 1705(a) of this title if the spouse
 2 or surrogate and the veteran apply jointly for such coun-
 3 seling and treatment through a process prescribed by the
 4 Secretary.

5 “(b) COORDINATION OF CARE FOR OTHER SPOUSES
 6 AND SURROGATES.—In the case of a spouse or surrogate
 7 of a veteran not described in subsection (a) who is seeking
 8 fertility counseling and treatment, the Secretary may co-
 9 ordinate fertility counseling and treatment for such spouse
 10 or surrogate.

11 “(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall
 12 be construed to require the Secretary—

13 “(1) to find or certify a surrogate for a veteran
 14 or to connect a surrogate with a veteran; or

15 “(2) to furnish maternity care to a spouse or
 16 surrogate of a veteran.

17 “(d) ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY DE-
 18 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘assisted reproductive
 19 technology’ includes in vitro fertilization and other fertility
 20 treatments in which both eggs and sperm are handled
 21 when clinically appropriate.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 23 at the beginning of chapter 17 is amended by inserting
 24 after the item relating to section 1787 the following new
 25 item:

“1788. Reproductive treatment and care for spouses and surrogates of veterans.”.

1 **SEC. 373. ADOPTION ASSISTANCE FOR SEVERELY WOUND-**
 2 **ED VETERANS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter VIII of chapter 17,
 4 as amended by section 372(a) of this Act, is further
 5 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“§ 1789. Adoption assistance**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may pay an
 8 amount, not to exceed the limitation amount, to assist a
 9 covered veteran in the adoption of one or more children.

10 “(b) COVERED VETERAN.—For purposes of this sec-
 11 tion, a covered veteran is any severely wounded, ill, or in-
 12 jured veteran who—

13 “(1) has an infertility condition incurred or ag-
 14 gravated in line of duty in the active military, naval,
 15 or air service; and

16 “(2) is enrolled in the system of annual patient
 17 enrollment established under section 1705(a) of this
 18 title.

19 “(c) LIMITATION AMOUNT.—For purposes of this
 20 section, the limitation amount is the amount equal to the
 21 lesser of—

22 “(1) the cost the Department would incur if the
 23 Secretary were to provide a covered veteran with one
 24 cycle of fertility treatment through the use of as-

1 sisted reproductive technology under section 1788 of
 2 this title, as determined by the Secretary; or

3 “(2) the cost the Department would incur by
 4 paying the expenses of three adoptions by covered
 5 veterans, as determined by the Secretary.

6 “(d) ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY DE-
 7 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘assisted reproductive
 8 technology’ has the meaning given that term in section
 9 1788 of this title.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 11 at the beginning of chapter 17, as amended by section
 12 372(b) of this Act, is further amended by inserting after
 13 the item relating to section 1788 the following new item:
 “1789. Adoption assistance.”.

14 **SEC. 374. REGULATIONS ON FURNISHING OF FERTILITY**
 15 **COUNSELING AND TREATMENT AND ADOPT-**
 16 **ION ASSISTANCE BY DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
 17 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 540 days after the
 19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
 20 erans Affairs shall prescribe regulations—

21 (1) on the furnishing of fertility treatment to
 22 veterans using assisted reproductive technology;

23 (2) to carry out section 1788 of title 38, United
 24 States Code, as added by section 372 of this Act;
 25 and

1 (3) to carry out section 1789 of such title, as
2 added by section 373 of this Act.

3 (b) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
4 sion of law, during the period beginning on the date of
5 the enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which
6 the Secretary prescribes regulations under subsection (a),
7 the Secretary may not furnish—

8 (1) to a veteran any fertility treatment that
9 uses an assisted reproductive technology that the
10 Secretary has not used in the provision of a fertility
11 treatment to a veteran before the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act;

13 (2) any fertility counseling or treatment under
14 section 1788 of such title, as added by section 372
15 of this Act; or

16 (3) any assistance under section 1789 of such
17 title, as added by section 373 of this Act.

18 (c) ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY DE-
19 FINED.—In this section, the term “assisted reproductive
20 technology” has the meaning given the term in section
21 1788 of such title, as added by section 372 of this Act.

1 **SEC. 375. COORDINATION BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
2 **ERANS AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF DE-**
3 **FENSE ON FURNISHING OF FERTILITY COUN-**
4 **SELING AND TREATMENT.**

5 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary
6 of Defense shall share best practices and facilitate refer-
7 rals, as they consider appropriate, on the furnishing of fer-
8 tility counseling and treatment.

9 **SEC. 376. FACILITATION OF REPRODUCTION AND INFER-**
10 **TILITY RESEARCH.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73, as
12 amended by section 325(a) of this Act, is further amended
13 by adding at the end the following new section:

14 **“§ 7330C. Facilitation of reproduction and infertility**
15 **research**

16 “(a) FACILITATION OF RESEARCH REQUIRED.—The
17 Secretary shall facilitate research conducted collabo-
18 ratively by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of
19 Health and Human Services to improve the ability of the
20 Department of Veterans Affairs to meet the long-term re-
21 productive health care needs of veterans who have a geni-
22 tourinary service-connected disability or a condition that
23 was incurred or aggravated in line of duty in the active
24 military, naval, or air service, such as a spinal cord injury,
25 that affects the veterans’ ability to reproduce.

1 “(b) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
 2 retary shall ensure that information produced by the re-
 3 search facilitated under this section that may be useful
 4 for other activities of the Veterans Health Administration
 5 is disseminated throughout the Veterans Health Adminis-
 6 tration.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 8 at the beginning of chapter 73, as amended by section
 9 325(b) of this Act, is further amended by inserting after
 10 the item relating to section 7330B the following new item:

“7330C. Facilitation of reproduction and infertility research.”.

11 (c) REPORT.—Not later than three years after the
 12 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
 13 erans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the re-
 14 search activities conducted by the Secretary under section
 15 7330C of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-
 16 section (a).

17 **SEC. 377. ANNUAL REPORT ON PROVISION OF FERTILITY**
 18 **COUNSELING AND TREATMENT FURNISHED**
 19 **BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
 21 date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently
 22 than annually thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Af-
 23 fairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
 24 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
 25 the House of Representatives a report on the fertility

1 counseling and treatment furnished by the Department of
2 Veterans Affairs during the year preceding the submittal
3 of the report.

4 (b) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under sub-
5 section (a) shall include, for the period covered by the re-
6 port, the following:

7 (1) The number of veterans who received fer-
8 tility counseling or treatment furnished by the De-
9 partment of Veterans Affairs, disaggregated by era
10 of military service of such veterans.

11 (2) The number of spouses and surrogates of
12 veterans who received fertility counseling or treat-
13 ment furnished by the Department.

14 (3) The cost to the Department of furnishing
15 fertility counseling and treatment, disaggregated by
16 cost of services and administration.

17 (4) The average cost to the Department per re-
18 cipient of such counseling and treatment.

19 (5) In cases in which the Department furnished
20 fertility treatment through the use of assisted repro-
21 ductive technology, the average number of cycles per
22 person furnished.

23 (6) A description of how fertility counseling and
24 treatment services of the Department are coordi-

1 nated with similar services of the Department of De-
2 fense.

3 **SEC. 378. PROGRAM ON ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR**
4 **CERTAIN VETERANS.**

5 (a) ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN
6 VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 17
8 is amended by adding at the end the following new
9 section:

10 **“§ 1709B. Assistance for child care for certain vet-**
11 **erans receiving health care**

12 “(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall
13 carry out a program to provide, subject to subsection (b),
14 assistance to qualified veterans described in subsection (c)
15 to obtain child care so that such veterans can receive
16 health care services described in subsection (c).

17 “(b) LIMITATION ON PERIOD OF PAYMENTS.—As-
18 sistance may only be provided to a qualified veteran under
19 this section for receipt of child care during the period that
20 the qualified veteran—

21 “(1) receives health care services described in
22 subsection (c) at a facility of the Department; and

23 “(2) requires travel to and from such facility
24 for the receipt of such health care services.

1 “(c) QUALIFIED VETERANS.—For purposes of this
2 section, a qualified veteran is a veteran who is—

3 “(1) the primary caretaker of a child or chil-
4 dren; and

5 “(2)(A) receiving from the Department—

6 “(i) regular mental health care services;

7 “(ii) intensive mental health care services;

8 or

9 “(iii) such other intensive health care serv-
10 ices that the Secretary determines that provi-
11 sion of assistance to the veteran to obtain child
12 care would improve access to such health care
13 services by the veteran; or

14 “(B) in need of regular or intensive mental
15 health care services from the Department, and but
16 for lack of child care services, would receive such
17 health care services from the Department.

18 “(d) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the
19 program in no fewer than three Veterans Integrated Serv-
20 ice Networks selected by the Secretary for purposes of the
21 program.

22 “(e) FORMS OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.—(1)
23 Child care assistance under this section may include the
24 following:

1 “(A) Stipends for the payment of child care of-
 2 ferred by licensed child care centers (either directly
 3 or through a voucher program) which shall be, to
 4 the extent practicable, modeled after the Depart-
 5 ment of Veterans Affairs Child Care Subsidy Pro-
 6 gram established pursuant to section 630 of the
 7 Treasury and General Government Appropriations
 8 Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–67; 115 Stat. 552).

9 “(B) Direct provision of child care at an on-site
 10 facility of the Department.

11 “(C) Payments to private child care agencies.

12 “(D) Collaboration with facilities or programs
 13 of other Federal departments or agencies.

14 “(E) Such other forms of assistance as the Sec-
 15 retary considers appropriate.

16 “(2) In the case that child care assistance under this
 17 section is provided as a stipend under paragraph (1)(A),
 18 such stipend shall cover the full cost of such child care.”.

19 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 20 tions at the beginning of chapter 17 is amended by
 21 inserting after the item relating to section 1709A
 22 the following new item:

“1709B. Assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.”.

23 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section
 24 205(e) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus
 25 Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163;

1 38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is amended by inserting “but
 2 not after the date of the enactment of the Com-
 3 prehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Mili-
 4 tary Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014” be-
 5 fore the period at the end.

6 (b) ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS
 7 RECEIVING READJUSTMENT COUNSELING AND RELATED
 8 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 17,
 10 as amended by subsection (a)(1) of this section, is
 11 further amended by adding at the end the following
 12 new section:

13 **“§ 1709C. Assistance for child care for individuals re-**
 14 **ceiving readjustment counseling and re-**
 15 **lated mental health services**

16 “(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall
 17 carry out a program to provide, subject to subsection (b),
 18 assistance to qualified individuals described in subsection
 19 (c) to obtain child care so that such individuals can receive
 20 readjustment counseling and related mental health serv-
 21 ices.

22 “(b) LIMITATION ON PERIOD OF PAYMENTS.—As-
 23 sistance may only be provided to a qualified individual
 24 under this section for receipt of child care during the pe-
 25 riod that the qualified individual receives readjustment

1 counseling and related health care services at a Vet Cen-
2 ter.

3 “(c) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of this
4 section, a qualified individual is an individual who is—

5 “(1) the primary caretaker of a child or chil-
6 dren; and

7 “(2)(A) receiving from the Department regular
8 readjustment counseling and related mental health
9 services; or

10 “(B) in need of readjustment counseling and
11 related mental health services from the Department,
12 and but for lack of child care services, would receive
13 such counseling and services from the Department.

14 “(d) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out the
15 program under this section in no fewer than three Read-
16 justment Counseling Service Regions selected by the Sec-
17 retary for purposes of the program.

18 “(e) FORMS OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.—(1)
19 Child care assistance under this section may include the
20 following:

21 “(A) Stipends for the payment of child care of-
22 fered by licensed child care centers (either directly
23 or through a voucher program) which shall be, to
24 the extent practicable, modeled after the Depart-
25 ment of Veterans Affairs Child Care Subsidy Pro-

1 gram established pursuant to section 630 of the
 2 Treasury and General Government Appropriations
 3 Act, 2002 (Public Law 107–67; 115 Stat. 552).

4 “(B) Payments to private child care agencies.

5 “(C) Collaboration with facilities or programs
 6 of other Federal departments or agencies.

7 “(D) Such other forms of assistance as the Sec-
 8 retary considers appropriate.

9 “(2) In the case that child care assistance under this
 10 subsection is provided as a stipend under paragraph
 11 (1)(A), such stipend shall cover the full cost of such child
 12 care.

13 “(f) VET CENTER DEFINED.—In this section, the
 14 term ‘Vet Center’ means a center for readjustment coun-
 15 seling and related mental health services for individuals
 16 under section 1712A of this title.”.

17 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 18 tions at the beginning of chapter 17, as amended by
 19 subsection (a)(2) of this section, is further amended
 20 by inserting after the item relating to section 1709B
 21 the following new item:

 “1709C. Assistance for child care for individuals receiving readjustment coun-
 seling and related mental health services.”.

1 **SEC. 379. COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS FOR WOMEN**
 2 **VETERANS NEWLY SEPARATED FROM SERV-**
 3 **ICE IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

4 (a) COUNSELING IN RETREAT SETTINGS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17
 6 is amended by adding at the end the following new
 7 section:

8 **“§ 1720H. Counseling in retreat settings for women**
 9 **veterans newly separated from service in**
 10 **the Armed Forces**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide,
 12 through the Readjustment Counseling Service of the Vet-
 13 erans Health Administration, reintegration and readjust-
 14 ment services described in subsection (c) in group retreat
 15 settings to women veterans who are recently separated
 16 from service in the Armed Forces after a prolonged de-
 17 ployment.

18 “(b) ELECTION OF VETERAN.—The receipt of serv-
 19 ices under this section by a woman veteran shall be at
 20 the election of the veteran.

21 “(c) COVERED SERVICES.—The services provided to
 22 a woman veteran under this section shall include the fol-
 23 lowing:

24 “(1) Information on reintegration into the vet-
 25 eran’s family, employment, and community.

26 “(2) Financial counseling.

1 “(3) Occupational counseling.

2 “(4) Information and counseling on stress re-
3 duction.

4 “(5) Information and counseling on conflict res-
5 olution.

6 “(6) Such other information and counseling as
7 the Secretary considers appropriate to assist the vet-
8 eran in reintegration into the veteran’s family, em-
9 ployment, and community.”.

10 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
11 tions at the beginning of chapter 17 is amended by
12 inserting after the item relating to section 1720G
13 the following new item:

“1720H. Counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated
from service in the Armed Forces.”.

14 (b) REPEAL OF SUPERSEDED PILOT PROGRAM AU-
15 THORITY.—Section 203 of the Caregivers and Veterans
16 Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–
17 163; 38 U.S.C. 1712A note) is hereby repealed.

18 **Subtitle H—Major Medical Facility** 19 **Leases**

20 **SEC. 381. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY** 21 **LEASES.**

22 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the
23 following major medical facility leases at the locations
24 specified, and in an amount for each lease not to exceed

1 the amount shown for such location (not including any es-
2 timated cancellation costs):

3 (1) For a clinical research and pharmacy co-
4 ordinating center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, an
5 amount not to exceed \$9,560,000.

6 (2) For a community-based outpatient clinic,
7 Brick, New Jersey, an amount not to exceed
8 \$7,280,000.

9 (3) For a new primary care and dental clinic
10 annex, Charleston, South Carolina, an amount not
11 to exceed \$7,070,250.

12 (4) For the Cobb County community-based
13 Outpatient Clinic, Cobb County, Georgia, an amount
14 not to exceed \$6,409,000.

15 (5) For the Leeward Outpatient Healthcare Ac-
16 cess Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, including a co-lo-
17 cated clinic with the Department of Defense and the
18 co-location of the Honolulu Regional Office of the
19 Veterans Benefits Administration and the Kapolei
20 Vet Center of the Department of Veterans Affairs,
21 an amount not to exceed \$15,887,370.

22 (6) For a community-based outpatient clinic,
23 Johnson County, Kansas, an amount not to exceed
24 \$2,263,000.

1 (7) For a replacement community-based out-
2 patient clinic, Lafayette, Louisiana, an amount not
3 to exceed \$2,996,000.

4 (8) For a community-based outpatient clinic,
5 Lake Charles, Louisiana, an amount not to exceed
6 \$2,626,000.

7 (9) For outpatient clinic consolidation, New
8 Port Richey, Florida, an amount not to exceed
9 \$11,927,000.

10 (10) For an outpatient clinic, Ponce, Puerto
11 Rico, an amount not to exceed \$11,535,000.

12 (11) For lease consolidation, San Antonio,
13 Texas, an amount not to exceed \$19,426,000.

14 (12) For a community-based outpatient clinic,
15 San Diego, California, an amount not to exceed
16 \$11,946,100.

17 (13) For an outpatient clinic, Tyler, Texas, an
18 amount not to exceed \$4,327,000.

19 (14) For the Errera Community Care Center,
20 West Haven, Connecticut, an amount not to exceed
21 \$4,883,000.

22 (15) For the Worcester community-based Out-
23 patient Clinic, Worcester, Massachusetts, an amount
24 not to exceed \$4,855,000.

1 (16) For the expansion of a community-based
2 outpatient clinic, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, an
3 amount not to exceed \$4,232,060.

4 (17) For a multispecialty clinic, Chattanooga,
5 Tennessee, an amount not to exceed \$7,069,000.

6 (18) For the expansion of a community-based
7 outpatient clinic, Chico, California, an amount not to
8 exceed \$4,534,000.

9 (19) For a community-based outpatient clinic,
10 Chula Vista, California, an amount not to exceed
11 \$3,714,000.

12 (20) For a new research lease, Hines, Illinois,
13 an amount not to exceed \$22,032,000.

14 (21) For a replacement research lease, Hous-
15 ton, Texas, an amount not to exceed \$6,142,000.

16 (22) For a community-based outpatient clinic,
17 Lincoln, Nebraska, an amount not to exceed
18 \$7,178,400.

19 (23) For a community-based outpatient clinic,
20 Lubbock, Texas, an amount not to exceed
21 \$8,554,000.

22 (24) For a community-based outpatient clinic
23 consolidation, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, an
24 amount not to exceed \$8,022,000.

1 (25) For a community-based outpatient clinic,
2 Phoenix, Arizona, an amount not to exceed
3 \$20,757,000.

4 (26) For the expansion of a community-based
5 outpatient clinic, Redding, California, an amount not
6 to exceed \$8,154,000.

7 (27) For the expansion of a community-based
8 outpatient clinic, Tulsa, Oklahoma, an amount not
9 to exceed \$13,269,200.

10 **SEC. 382. BUDGETARY TREATMENT OF DEPARTMENT OF**
11 **VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILI-**
12 **TIES LEASES.**

13 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

14 (1) Title 31, United States Code, requires the
15 Department of Veterans Affairs to record the full
16 cost of its contractual obligation against funds avail-
17 able at the time a contract is executed.

18 (2) Office of Management and Budget Circular
19 A–11 provides guidance to agencies in meeting the
20 statutory requirements under title 31, United States
21 Code, with respect to leases.

22 (3) For operating leases, Office of Management
23 and Budget Circular A–11 requires the Department
24 of Veterans Affairs to record up-front budget au-
25 thority in an “amount equal to total payments under

1 the full term of the lease or [an] amount sufficient
2 to cover first year lease payments plus cancellation
3 costs”.

4 (b) REQUIREMENT FOR OBLIGATION OF FULL
5 COST.—Subject to the availability of appropriations pro-
6 vided in advance, in exercising the authority of the Sec-
7 retary of Veterans Affairs to enter into leases provided
8 in this Act, the Secretary shall record, pursuant to section
9 1501 of title 31, United States Code, as the full cost of
10 the contractual obligation at the time a contract is exe-
11 cuted either—

12 (1) an amount equal to total payments under
13 the full term of the lease; or

14 (2) if the lease specifies payments to be made
15 in the event the lease is terminated before its full
16 term, an amount sufficient to cover the first year
17 lease payments plus the specified cancellation costs.

18 (c) TRANSPARENCY.—

19 (1) COMPLIANCE.—Subsection (b) of section
20 8104 is amended by adding at the end the following
21 new paragraph:

22 “(7) In the case of a prospectus proposing
23 funding for a major medical facility lease, a detailed
24 analysis of how the lease is expected to comply with
25 Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11

1 and section 1341 of title 31 (commonly referred to
2 as the ‘Anti-Deficiency Act’). Any such analysis shall
3 include—

4 “(A) an analysis of the classification of the
5 lease as a ‘lease-purchase’, ‘capital lease’, or
6 ‘operating lease’ as those terms are defined in
7 Office of Management and Budget Circular A–
8 11;

9 “(B) an analysis of the obligation of budg-
10 etary resources associated with the lease; and

11 “(C) an analysis of the methodology used
12 in determining the asset cost, fair market value,
13 and cancellation costs of the lease.”.

14 (2) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Such section
15 8104 is further amended by adding at the end the
16 following new subsection:

17 “(h)(1) Not less than 30 days before entering into
18 a major medical facility lease, the Secretary shall submit
19 to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and
20 the House of Representatives—

21 “(A) notice of the Secretary’s intention to enter
22 into the lease;

23 “(B) a copy of the proposed lease;

1 “(C) a description and analysis of any dif-
2 ferences between the prospectus submitted pursuant
3 to subsection (b) and the proposed lease; and

4 “(D) a scoring analysis demonstrating that the
5 proposed lease fully complies with Office of Manage-
6 ment and Budget Circular A-11.

7 “(2) Each committee described in paragraph (1) shall
8 ensure that any information submitted to the committee
9 under such paragraph is treated by the committee with
10 the same level of confidentiality as is required by law of
11 the Secretary and subject to the same statutory penalties
12 for unauthorized disclosure or use as the Secretary.

13 “(3) Not more than 30 days after entering into a
14 major medical facility lease, the Secretary shall submit to
15 each committee described in paragraph (1) a report on
16 any material differences between the lease that was en-
17 tered into and the proposed lease described under such
18 paragraph, including how the lease that was entered into
19 changes the previously submitted scoring analysis de-
20 scribed in subparagraph (D) of such paragraph.”.

21 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
22 tion, or the amendments made by this section, shall be
23 construed to in any way relieve the Department of Vet-
24 erans Affairs from any statutory or regulatory obligations

1 or requirements existing prior to the enactment of this
2 section and such amendments.

3 **TITLE IV—EMPLOYMENT AND**
4 **RELATED MATTERS**
5 **Subtitle A—Training and Other**
6 **Services for Veterans Seeking**
7 **Employment**

8 **SEC. 401. REAUTHORIZATION OF VETERANS RETRAINING**
9 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

10 (a) EXTENSION.—Subsection (k) of section 211 of
11 the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 (Public Law 112–
12 56; 38 U.S.C. 4100 note) is amended by striking “March
13 31, 2014” and inserting “June 30, 2016”.

14 (b) NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE VETERANS.—Subsection
15 (a)(2) of such section is amended—

16 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at
17 the end;

18 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period
19 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

20 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
21 paragraphs:

22 “(C) 50,000 during the period beginning
23 April 1, 2014, and ending June 30, 2015; and

24 “(D) 50,000 during the period beginning
25 July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2016.”.

1 (c) CLARIFICATION OF LIMITATION ON AGGREGATE
 2 AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—Subsection (b) of such section
 3 is amended by striking “up to 12 months of retraining
 4 assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs”
 5 and inserting “an aggregate of not more than 12 months
 6 of retraining assistance provided by the Secretary of Vet-
 7 erans Affairs under this section”.

8 (d) PROVIDERS OF RETRAINING ASSISTANCE.—Sub-
 9 section (b) of such section is further amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and

11 (5) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively; and

12 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
 13 lowing new paragraph (3):

14 “(3) is offered by a four-year educational insti-
 15 tution and, as determined by the Secretary, is not
 16 reasonably available at a community college or tech-
 17 nical school;”.

18 (e) EXTENSION OF APPLICATION DATE.—Subsection
 19 (e)(1)(G) of such section is amended by striking “October
 20 1, 2013” and inserting “October 1, 2015”.

21 (f) REPORTS.—Subsection (i) of such section is
 22 amended—

23 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “RE-
 24 PORT” and inserting “REPORTS”;

1 (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
2 following new paragraph (1):

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
4 Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees
5 of Congress reports on training assistance provided
6 under this section as follows:

7 “(A) By not later than October 1, 2015,
8 for participants provided assistance through
9 March 31, 2014.

10 “(B) By not later than October 1, 2017,
11 for participants provided assistance during the
12 period beginning on April 1, 2014, and ending
13 on June 2016.”; and

14 (3) in paragraph (2), by striking “The report
15 required by paragraph (1) shall include” and insert-
16 ing “Each report required by paragraph (1) shall in-
17 clude, for the period covered by such report,”.

18 **SEC. 402. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF**
19 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO PROVIDE REHABILI-**
20 **TATION AND VOCATIONAL BENEFITS TO**
21 **MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES WITH SEVERE**
22 **INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1631(b)(2) of the Wound-
24 ed Warrior Act (title XVI of Public Law 110–181; 10

1 U.S.C. 1071 note) is amended by striking “December 31,
2 2014” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

3 (b) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appro-
7 priate committees of Congress a report on the bene-
8 fits provided by the Secretary under section 1631(b)
9 of such Act.

10 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
11 GRESS.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate
12 committees of Congress” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Armed Services and
14 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-
15 ate; and

16 (B) the Committee on Armed Services and
17 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
18 House of Representatives.

19 **SEC. 403. EXTENSION OF ADDITIONAL REHABILITATION**
20 **PROGRAMS FOR PERSONS WHO HAVE EX-**
21 **HAUSTED RIGHTS TO UNEMPLOYMENT BENE-**
22 **FITS UNDER STATE LAW.**

23 Section 3102(b)(4) is amended by striking “March
24 31, 2014” and inserting “March 31, 2016”.

1 **SEC. 404. UNIFIED EMPLOYMENT PORTAL FOR VETERANS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4105 is amended by add-
3 ing at the end the following:

4 “(c)(1) The Secretary shall develop a single, unified
5 Federal web-based employment portal, for use by veterans,
6 containing information regarding all Federal programs
7 and activities concerning employment, unemployment, and
8 training to the extent the programs and activities affect
9 veterans.

10 “(2) The Secretary shall work with representatives
11 from the Department of Defense, the Department of Vet-
12 erans Affairs, the Small Business Administration, and
13 other Federal agencies and organizations concerned with
14 veterans’ issues, to determine an appropriate platform and
15 implementing agency for the portal. The Secretary shall
16 enter into an agreement with the other Federal agencies
17 for the implementation of the portal.”.

18 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Labor shall
19 implement the portal required by subsection (c) of section
20 4105 of title 38, United States Code (as added by sub-
21 section (a) of this section), by not later than January 1,
22 2015.

1 **SEC. 405. REPORT ON UNIFIED GOVERNMENT INTERNET**
2 **PORTAL FOR VETERANS ON JOBS AVAILABLE**
3 **THROUGH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**

4 (a) IDENTIFICATION OF INTERNET WEBSITES AND
5 APPLICATIONS THAT CAN ASSIST VETERANS SEEKING
6 EMPLOYMENT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor
8 shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans
9 Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, and other appro-
10 priate public and private entities, take appropriate
11 actions to identify Internet websites and applications
12 that can assist veterans in seeking employment.

13 (2) PRIORITY IN IDENTIFICATION OF CERTAIN
14 WEBSITES AND APPLICATIONS.—In identifying
15 websites and applications pursuant to paragraph (1),
16 the Secretary shall place a particular priority on
17 identifying websites and applications that do the fol-
18 lowing:

19 (A) Match veterans seeking employment
20 with available jobs based on the skills the vet-
21 erans acquired as members of the Armed
22 Forces.

23 (B) Permit employers to post information
24 about available jobs.

25 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the ef-
26 fective date specified in subsection (c), the Secretary of

1 Labor shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
2 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of
3 the House of Representatives a report on the actions of
4 the Secretary under subsection (a). The report shall in-
5 clude an assessment of the feasibility and advisability of
6 creating a single, unified Internet-based employment por-
7 tal for the Federal Government for use by veterans regard-
8 ing employment through the Federal Government, includ-
9 ing the cost of creating the portal, the collaboration with
10 other Federal agencies required to create the portal, and
11 the anticipated use of the portal.

12 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
13 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
14 ment of this Act.

15 **SEC. 406. INFORMATION ON DISABILITY-RELATED EMPLOY-**
16 **MENT AND EDUCATION PROTECTIONS IN**
17 **TRANSITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1144(b) of title 10,
19 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
20 following new paragraph:

21 “(9) Provide information about disability-re-
22 lated employment and education protections.”.

23 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
24 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is one
25 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **Subtitle B—Employment of Vet-**
2 **erans and Recognition of Vet-**
3 **eran Status With Respect to Em-**
4 **ployment Related Matters**

5 **SEC. 411. EMPLOYMENT OF VETERANS WITH THE FEDERAL**
6 **GOVERNMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4214 is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
9 following:

10 “(4)(A) The requirement under this paragraph is in
11 addition to the appointment of qualified covered veterans
12 under the authority under paragraph (1) by the Depart-
13 ment of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense.

14 “(B) The head of each agency, in consultation with
15 the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall
16 develop a plan for exercising the authority specified in sub-
17 paragraph (C) during the five-year period beginning on
18 the date of the enactment of the Comprehensive Veterans
19 Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Res-
20 toration Act of 2014.

21 “(C) The authority specified in this subparagraph is
22 the authority as follows:

23 “(i) The authority under paragraph (1).

24 “(ii) The authority available to the agency con-
25 cerned under the Veterans Employment Opportuni-

1 ties Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–339) and the
2 amendments made by that Act.

3 “(D) The Director of the Office of Personnel Man-
4 agement shall ensure that under the plans developed
5 under subparagraph (B) agencies shall appoint to existing
6 vacancies not fewer than 15,000 qualified covered veterans
7 during the five-year period beginning on the date of the
8 enactment of the Comprehensive Veterans Health and
9 Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of
10 2014. For purposes of complying with this subparagraph,
11 an appointment pursuant to the authority referred to in
12 subparagraph (C)(ii) shall not count toward the number
13 required by this subparagraph unless the appointment is
14 to a vacancy in a full-time, permanent position.”;

15 (2) in subsection (d), in the third sentence, by
16 inserting “(including, during the 5-year period be-
17 ginning on the date of the enactment of the Com-
18 prehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Mili-
19 tary Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014, the
20 development and implementation by each agency of
21 the plan required under subsection (b)(4), which
22 shall include information regarding the grade or pay
23 level of appointments by the agency under the plan
24 and whether the appointments are, or are converted

1 to, career or career-conditional appointments)” after
2 “subsection (b) of this section”; and

3 (3) in subsection (e)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) in the matter before subparagraph
6 (A), by striking “to the Congress” and in-
7 serting “to the appropriate committees of
8 Congress”; and

9 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
10 “(including, during the 5-year period be-
11 ginning on the date of the enactment of
12 the Comprehensive Veterans Health and
13 Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Res-
14 toration Act of 2014, the development and
15 implementation by the agency of the plan
16 required under subsection (b)(4), which
17 shall include information regarding the
18 grade or pay level of appointments by the
19 agency under the plan and whether the ap-
20 pointments are, or are converted to, per-
21 manent appointments)” before the period;
22 and

23 (B) by adding at the end the following new
24 paragraph:

1 “(3) In this subsection, the term ‘appropriate com-
2 mittees of Congress’ means—

3 “(A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and
4 the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
5 mental Affairs of the Senate; and

6 “(B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and
7 the Committee on Oversight and Government Re-
8 form of the House of Representatives.”.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
10 of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Per-
11 sonnel Management shall submit to the appropriate com-
12 mittees of Congress (as defined under section 4214(e)(3)
13 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by subsection
14 (a)) regarding the development of a plan to carry out the
15 amendments made by subsection (a).

16 **SEC. 412. STATE RECOGNITION OF MILITARY EXPERIENCE**
17 **OF VETERANS IN ISSUING LICENSES AND**
18 **CREDENTIALS TO VETERANS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4102A(c) is amended by
20 striking paragraph (9) and inserting the following new
21 paragraph (9):

22 “(9)(A) As a condition of a grant or contract under
23 which funds are made available to a State under sub-
24 section (b)(5) in order to carry out section 4103A or 4104
25 of this title, the State shall—

1 “(i) establish a program under which the State
2 administers an examination to each veteran seeking
3 a license or credential issued by the State and issues
4 such license or credential to such veteran without re-
5 quiring such veteran to undergo any training or ap-
6 prenticeship if the veteran—

7 “(I) receives a satisfactory score on com-
8 pletion of such examination, as determined by
9 the State;

10 “(II) has been awarded a military occupa-
11 tional specialty that is substantially equivalent
12 to or exceeds the requirements of the State for
13 the issuance of such license or credential;

14 “(III) has engaged in the active practice of
15 the occupation for which the veteran is seeking
16 such license or credential for at least two of the
17 five years preceding the date of application; and

18 “(IV) pays any customary or usual fees re-
19 quired by the State for such license or creden-
20 tial; and

21 “(ii) submit each year to the Secretary a report
22 on the exams administered under clause (i) during
23 the most recently completed 12-month period that
24 includes, for the period covered by the report the
25 number of veterans who completed an exam adminis-

1 tered by the State under clause (i) and a description
2 of the results of such exams, disaggregated by occu-
3 pational field.

4 “(B) The Secretary may waive the requirement under
5 subparagraph (A) that a State establish a program de-
6 scribed in that subparagraph as a condition of a grant
7 or contract if the State certifies to the Secretary that the
8 State—

9 “(i) takes into account previous military train-
10 ing for the purposes of issuing licenses or creden-
11 tials;

12 “(ii) permits veterans to completely satisfy
13 through examination any training or testing require-
14 ments for a license or credential with respect to
15 which a veteran has previously completed military
16 training; and

17 “(iii) for any credential or license for which a
18 veteran is unable to completely satisfy such require-
19 ments through examination, the State substantially
20 reduces training time required to satisfy such re-
21 quirement based on the military training received by
22 the veteran.

23 “(C) Not less frequently than once each year, the
24 Secretary shall submit to Congress and the Secretary of

1 Defense a report summarizing the information received by
 2 the Secretary under subparagraph (A)(ii).”.

3 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

4 (1) EXAMS.—Subparagraph (A) of section
 5 4102A(c)(9) of title 38, United States Code, as
 6 added by subsection (a), shall take effect on the date
 7 that is one year after the date of the enactment of
 8 this Act and shall apply with respect to grants and
 9 contracts described in such subparagraph awarded
 10 after such date.

11 (2) REPORTS.—Subparagraph (B) of such sec-
 12 tion 4102A(c)(9), as so added, shall take effect on
 13 the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
 14 ment of this Act and the Secretary of Labor shall
 15 submit the first report under such subparagraph not
 16 later than two years after the date of the enactment
 17 of this Act.

18 **SEC. 413. GRANTS TO HIRE VETERANS AS FIRST RESPOND-**
 19 **ERS.**

20 (a) GRANTS FOR FIREFIGHTERS.—The Secretary of
 21 Homeland Security shall award grants under section 34
 22 of the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974
 23 (15 U.S.C. 2229a) to hire veterans as firefighters.

24 (b) GRANTS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—
 25 The Attorney General shall award grants under part Q

1 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets
2 Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd et seq.) to hire veterans
3 as law enforcement officers.

4 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
5 tion to hire veterans, the Secretary of Homeland Security
6 and the Attorney General shall give priority to the hiring
7 of veterans who served on active duty in the Armed Forces
8 on or after September 11, 2001.

9 (d) FUNDING.—

10 (1) DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—
11 There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal
12 year 2015 for the Department of Homeland Secu-
13 rity, \$125,000,000 to carry out subsection (a).

14 (2) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—There is au-
15 thorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015 for
16 the Department of Justice, \$125,000,000 to carry
17 out subsection (b).

18 (3) AVAILABILITY.—The amounts authorized to
19 be appropriated by this subsection shall be available
20 for expenditure through September 30, 2018.

21 **SEC. 414. EMPLOYMENT OF VETERANS AS EVALUATION**
22 **FACTOR IN THE AWARDING OF FEDERAL**
23 **CONTRACTS.**

24 (a) CIVILIAN CONTRACTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 33 of title 41,
2 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
3 end the following new section:

4 **“§ 3313. Employment of veterans as evaluation factor**

5 “The head of each executive agency shall consider fa-
6 vorably as an evaluation factor in solicitations for con-
7 tracts and task or delivery order valued at or above
8 \$25,000,000 the employment by a prospective contractor
9 of veterans constituting at least 5 percent of the contrac-
10 tor’s workforce.”.

11 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
12 tions at the beginning of chapter 33 of such title is
13 amended by adding after the item relating to section
14 3312 the following new item:

“3313. Employment of veterans as evaluation factor.”.

15 (b) DEFENSE CONTRACTS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 137 of title 10,
17 United States Code, is amended by adding at the
18 end the following new section:

19 **“§ 2338. Employment of veterans as evaluation factor**

20 “The head of each agency shall consider favorably as
21 an evaluation factor in solicitations for contracts and task
22 or delivery order valued at or above \$25,000,000 the em-
23 ployment by a prospective contractor of veterans consti-
24 tuting at least 5 percent of the contractor’s workforce.”.

1 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 2 tions at the beginning of chapter 137 of such title
 3 is amended by adding after the item relating to sec-
 4 tion 2337 the following new item:

“2338. Employment of veterans as evaluation factor.”.

5 (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after
 6 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisi-
 7 tion Regulatory Council shall amend the Federal Acquisi-
 8 tion Regulation to carry out the provisions of section 3313
 9 of title 41, United States Code, and section 2338 of title
 10 10, United States Code, as added by subsections (a) and
 11 (b), respectively.

12 **SEC. 415. REPORT ON DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MEMBERS**
 13 **OF RESERVE COMPONENTS OF ARMED**
 14 **FORCES AND VETERANS IN CIVILIAN LABOR**
 15 **MARKET.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 570 days after the
 17 date of the enactment of this act, the Secretary of Labor,
 18 in coordination with the heads of such agencies as the Sec-
 19 retary considers appropriate, shall submit to the appro-
 20 priate committees of Congress a report on barriers and
 21 potential discrimination facing veterans in the labor mar-
 22 ket.

23 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection
 24 (a) shall include the following:

25 (1) An evaluation of the following:

1 (A) The extent to which members of the
2 reserve components of the Armed Forces and
3 veterans face barriers to entry into the civilian
4 labor market, including whether such members
5 and veterans face obstacles in obtaining employ-
6 ment, maintaining employment, or receiving
7 promotions while employed.

8 (B) The extent to which a member of a re-
9 serve component of the Armed Forces or a vet-
10 eran faces discrimination in the civilian labor
11 market based on the member's or veteran's sta-
12 tus as a member of a reserve component of the
13 Armed Forces or as a veteran, as the case may
14 be.

15 (C) The adequacy and effectiveness of
16 Federal laws in effect on the day before the
17 date of the enactment of this Act in preventing
18 or ameliorating acts of discrimination against
19 members of the reserve components of the
20 Armed Forces and veterans seeking or retaining
21 employment in the civilian labor market.

22 (D) The adequacy and effectiveness of pro-
23 grams of the Department of Labor in effect on
24 the day before the date of the enactment of this
25 Act in educating private sector employers on

1 matters relevant to hiring and employing vet-
2 erans and the military experience of veterans.

3 (2) Such recommendations as the Secretary
4 may have for legislative or administrative action—

5 (A) to address barriers or discrimination
6 that members of the reserve components of the
7 Armed Forces and veterans may face in the ci-
8 vilian labor market;

9 (B) to improve education and outreach for
10 employers in the civilian labor market on issues
11 regarding hiring and employing such members
12 and veterans; and

13 (C) to assist employers in the civilian labor
14 market in matching the military experience of
15 such members and veterans with the needs of
16 such employers.

17 (3) Such other matters as the Secretary con-
18 siders appropriate.

19 (c) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In
20 this section, the term “appropriate committees of Con-
21 gress” means—

22 (1) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the
23 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
24 sions of the Senate; and

1 (2) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the
2 Committee on Education and the Workforce of the
3 House of Representatives.

4 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
5 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act.

7 **Subtitle C—Program on Career**
8 **Transition**

9 **SEC. 421. PROGRAM ON PROVISION OF CAREER TRANSI-**
10 **TION SERVICES TO YOUNG VETERANS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than 180
12 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
13 retary of Veterans Affairs shall, in collaboration with the
14 Secretary of Labor, carry out a program to assess the fea-
15 sibility and advisability of establishing a program to pro-
16 vide career transition services to eligible individuals—

17 (1) to provide eligible individuals with work ex-
18 perience in the civilian sector;

19 (2) to increase the marketable skills of eligible
20 individuals;

21 (3) to assist eligible individuals in obtaining
22 long-term employment; and

23 (4) to assist in integrating eligible individuals
24 into their local communities.

1 (b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of the
2 program, an eligible individual is an individual who—

3 (1) is—

4 (A) a veteran of the Armed Forces who
5 was discharged or released from service therein
6 under conditions other than dishonorable; or

7 (B) a member of a reserve component of
8 the Armed Forces (including the National
9 Guard) who—

10 (i) served on active duty in the Armed
11 Forces (other than active duty for train-
12 ing) for more than 180 consecutive days
13 during the three-year period ending on the
14 date of application for participation in the
15 program; and

16 (ii) is not serving on active duty on
17 the date of commencement of participation
18 in the program;

19 (2) if discharged or released from the Armed
20 Forces on the date of commencement of participa-
21 tion in the program, was so discharged or released
22 not later than three years before application for par-
23 ticipation in the program;

24 (3) is unemployed or underemployed, as deter-
25 mined by the Secretary; and

1 (4) is, at the time at which the individual ap-
2 plies for participation in the program, 18 years of
3 age or older, but not more than 30 years of age.

4 (c) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYERS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the pro-
6 gram, an eligible employer is an employer deter-
7 mined by the Secretary to meet such criteria for
8 participation in the program as the Secretary shall
9 establish for purposes of the program.

10 (2) PAST PERFORMANCE ON CERTAIN MAT-
11 TERS.—The criteria established by the Secretary
12 under paragraph (1) may include past performance
13 of an employer with respect to the following:

14 (A) Job training, basic skills training, and
15 related activities.

16 (B) Financial accountability.

17 (C) Demonstrated high potential for
18 growth and long-term job creation.

19 (3) FOR-PROFIT AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT EMPLOY-
20 ERS.—The employers determined by the Secretary to
21 be eligible employers under paragraph (1) may in-
22 clude both for-profit and not-for-profit employers.

23 (4) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—In deter-
24 mining employers to be eligible employers under
25 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that small

1 business concerns are afforded opportunities to par-
2 ticipate in the program.

3 (5) EXCLUSIONS.—The following employers
4 may not be determined to be an eligible employer
5 under paragraph (1):

6 (A) An agency of the Federal Government
7 or a State or local government.

8 (B) An employer that has previously par-
9 ticipated in the program and, as determined by
10 the Secretary, failed to abide by any require-
11 ment of the program.

12 (C) An employer that cannot give an as-
13 surance to the Secretary at the time of applica-
14 tion for participation in the program under sub-
15 section (l), and in such manner as the Secretary
16 shall specify pursuant to that subsection, on
17 each matter as follows:

18 (i) That the employer has not been in-
19 vestigated or subject to a case or action by
20 the Federal Trade Commission during the
21 180-day period ending on the date the em-
22 ployer would otherwise commence partici-
23 pation in the program.

24 (ii) That the employer has been in
25 good standing with a State business bu-

1 reau during the period described in clause
2 (i).

3 (iii) That the employer is not delin-
4 quent with respect to payment of any taxes
5 or employer contributions described under
6 section 3301 and 3302 (a)(1) of the Inter-
7 nal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C.
8 3301 and 3302(a)(1)).

9 (iv) That the employer would not re-
10 quest the placement of an additional eligi-
11 ble individual under the program, if after
12 such additional placement, the number of
13 eligible individuals placed in internships at
14 such employer under the program would
15 constitute more than 10 percent of the eli-
16 gible employer's workforce. For purposes
17 of the previous sentence, being an intern
18 under the program placed at an employer
19 shall be considered part of the employer's
20 workforce.

21 (v) That the employer has the inten-
22 tion of retaining eligible participants after
23 such participants have completed participa-
24 tion in the program.

1 (d) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the
 2 program during the three-year period beginning on the
 3 date of the commencement of the program.

4 (e) CAREER TRANSITION SERVICES.—For purposes
 5 of the program, career transition services are the fol-
 6 lowing:

7 (1) Internships under subsection (f).

8 (2) Mentorship and job-shadowing under sub-
 9 section (g).

10 (3) Volunteer opportunities under subsection
 11 (h).

12 (4) Professional skill workshops under sub-
 13 section (i).

14 (5) Skills assessment under subsection (j).

15 (6) Additional services under subsection (k).

16 (f) INTERNSHIPS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each eligible individual
 18 whom the Secretary approves for participation in the
 19 program, the Secretary shall attempt to place such
 20 eligible individual in an internship on a full-time
 21 basis with an eligible employer whom the Secretary
 22 has approved for participation in the program.

23 (2) DURATION.—Each internship under the
 24 program shall be for a period of one year.

25 (3) WAGES.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
2 furnish pay and benefits to each eligible indi-
3 vidual participating in an internship under the
4 program for the duration of such participation
5 in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$25,000.

6 (4) EMPLOYMENT STATUS.—For purposes of
7 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
8 (Public Law 111–148), an eligible individual placed
9 in an internship with an eligible employer under the
10 program shall be considered an employee of the De-
11 partment of Veterans Affairs and not the eligible
12 employer during the period of such internship under
13 the program.

14 (5) RELATION TO OTHER FEDERAL ASSIST-
15 ANCE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
16 pay received by an individual under this subsection
17 may not be used in any calculation to determine the
18 eligibility of such individual for any Federal program
19 for the purpose of obtaining child care assistance.

20 (g) MENTORSHIP AND JOB-SHADOWING.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of an eligible
22 employer's participation in the program and the
23 placement of an eligible individual in an internship
24 at the eligible employer, the eligible employer shall
25 provide each eligible individual placed in an intern-

1 ship at the eligible employer under the program with
2 at least one mentor who is an employee of the eligi-
3 ble employer.

4 (2) JOB-SHADOWING AND CAREER COUN-
5 SELING.—To the extent practicable, a mentor as-
6 signed to an eligible individual participating in the
7 program shall provide such eligible individual with
8 job shadowing and career counseling.

9 (h) VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on participa-
11 tion in the program, each eligible individual who
12 participates in the program shall, not less frequently
13 than once each month in which the eligible indi-
14 vidual participates in the program, engage in a
15 qualifying volunteer activity in accordance with
16 guidelines the Secretary shall establish.

17 (2) QUALIFYING VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES.—For
18 purposes of this subsection, a qualifying volunteer
19 activity is any activity the Secretary considers re-
20 lated to providing assistance to, or for the benefit of,
21 a veteran. Such activities may include the following:

22 (A) Outreach.

23 (B) Assisting an organization recognized
24 by the Secretary for the representation of vet-

1 erans under section 5902 of title 38, United
2 States Code, on a volunteer basis.

3 (C) Service benefitting a veteran in a State
4 home or a Department of Veterans Affairs med-
5 ical facility.

6 (D) Service benefitting a veteran at an in-
7 stitution of higher education.

8 (i) PROFESSIONAL SKILLS WORKSHOPS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide
10 eligible individuals participating in the program with
11 workshops for the development and improvement of
12 the professional skills of such eligible individuals.

13 (2) TAILORED.—The workshops provided by the
14 Secretary shall be tailored to meet the particular
15 needs of eligible individuals participating in the pro-
16 gram as determined under subsection (j).

17 (3) TOPICS.—The workshops provided to eligi-
18 ble individuals participating in the program may in-
19 clude workshops for the development of such profes-
20 sional skills as the Secretary considers appropriate,
21 which may include the following:

22 (A) Written and oral communication skills.

23 (B) Basic word processing and other com-
24 puter skills.

25 (C) Interpersonal skills.

1 (4) MANNER OF PRESENTATION.—Workshops
2 on particular topics shall be provided through such
3 means as may be appropriate, effective, and ap-
4 proved of by the Secretary for purposes of the pro-
5 gram. Such means may include use of electronic
6 communication.

7 (5) ASSESSMENTS.—The Secretary shall con-
8 duct an assessment of a participant in a workshop
9 conducted under this subsection to assess the par-
10 ticipant's knowledge acquired as a result of partici-
11 pating in the workshop.

12 (j) SKILLS ASSESSMENT.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under the program, the Sec-
14 retary shall develop and implement an objective as-
15 sessment of eligible individuals participating in the
16 program to assist in the placement of such individ-
17 uals in internships under subsection (f) and to assist
18 in the tailoring of workshops under subsection (i).

19 (2) ELEMENTS.—The assessment may include
20 an assessment of the skill levels and service needs of
21 each participant, which may include a review of
22 basic professional entry-level skills, prior work expe-
23 rience, employability, and the individual's interests.

24 (k) ADDITIONAL SERVICES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (2), the Secretary shall, under the program,
3 furnish the following services to an eligible individual
4 participating in the program when assessment under
5 subsection (j) indicates such services are appro-
6 priate:

7 (A) Counseling, such as job counseling and
8 career counseling.

9 (B) Job search assistance.

10 (C) Follow-up services with participants
11 that are offered unsubsidized employment by
12 the employer with whom they were assigned.

13 (D) Transportation, as described in para-
14 graph (3).

15 (2) REFERRALS.—In lieu of furnishing a serv-
16 ice to an eligible individual under paragraph (1), the
17 Secretary may refer such eligible individual to an-
18 other Federal, State, or local government program
19 that provides such service.

20 (3) TRANSPORTATION.—In accordance with cri-
21 teria established by the Secretary for purposes of the
22 program, the Secretary may pay an allowance based
23 upon mileage, of any eligible individual placed in an
24 internship under the program not in excess of 75

1 miles to or from a facility of the eligible employer or
2 other place in connection with such internship.

3 (l) PARTICIPATION.—

4 (1) APPLICATION.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible employer or
6 eligible individual seeking to participate in the
7 program shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
8 cation therefor at such time, in such manner,
9 and containing such information as the Sec-
10 retary shall specify.

11 (B) REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE EM-
12 PLOYERS.—An application submitted by an eli-
13 gible employer under subparagraph (A) shall in-
14 clude a certification or other information, in
15 such form and manner as the Secretary shall
16 specify, on each of the assurances required by
17 subsection (c)(5)(C), including the assurance
18 that the employer has the intention of retaining
19 eligible participants after they have completed
20 participation in the program as provided in
21 clause (v) of that subsection.

22 (2) TIME OF APPLICATION FOR CERTAIN ELIGI-
23 BLE INDIVIDUALS.—A member of the Armed Forces
24 on active duty who expects to be an eligible indi-
25 vidual described in subsection (b)(1)(A) upon dis-

1 charge or release from the Armed Forces may sub-
2 mit an application to participate in the program not
3 earlier than 180 days before the date on which the
4 member expects to be discharged or released from
5 the Armed Forces. A member who submits such an
6 application shall be treated as unemployed or under-
7 employed for purposes of subsection (b)(2) if the
8 member has not accepted an offer of employment
9 after discharge or release as of the time of the sub-
10 mittal of the application.

11 (3) DELIMITING DATE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF
12 PARTICIPATION BY INDIVIDUALS.—An eligible indi-
13 vidual may not commence participation in the pro-
14 gram after the date that is two years after the date
15 of the commencement of the program.

16 (4) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall review
17 each application submitted by an applicant under
18 paragraph (1) and approve or disapprove the appli-
19 cant for participation in the program.

20 (m) GRANTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award
22 grants to eligible entities to assist the Secretary in
23 carrying out the program.

1 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of the
2 program, an eligible entity is a nonprofit organiza-
3 tion.

4 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding grants
5 under this subsection, the Secretary may consider
6 whether an eligible entity—

7 (A) has an understanding of the unemploy-
8 ment problems of eligible individuals and mem-
9 bers of the Armed Forces transitioning from
10 service in the Armed Forces to civilian life; and

11 (B) has the capability to assist the Sec-
12 retary in administering effectively the program
13 and providing career transition services to eligi-
14 ble individuals.

15 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received by a re-
16 cipient of a grant under this subsection may be used
17 as the Secretary considers appropriate for purposes
18 of the program, including as follows:

19 (A) To assist the Secretary in carrying out
20 the program.

21 (B) To recruit eligible employers and eligi-
22 ble individuals to participate in the program.

23 (C) To match eligible individuals partici-
24 pating in the program with internship opportu-

1 nities at eligible employers participating in the
2 program.

3 (D) To coordinate and carry out job place-
4 ment and other employer outreach activities.

5 (n) OUTREACH.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs and the Secretary of Labor shall jointly
8 carry out a program of outreach to inform eligible
9 employers and eligible individuals about the program
10 and the benefits of participating in the program.

11 (2) INCLUDED LOCATIONS AND GROUPS.—The
12 Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of
13 Labor shall ensure that any outreach program and
14 activities conducted under paragraph (1) include, to
15 the extent practicable, rural communities, tribal
16 lands of the United States, Native Americans, and
17 tribal organizations (as defined in section 3765 of
18 title 38, United States Code).

19 (o) AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO
20 PROGRAM.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each year of the program,
22 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may recognize one
23 or more eligible employers or one or more eligible in-
24 dividuals participating in the program for dem-

1 onstrating outstanding achievement in carrying out
2 or in contributing to the success of the program.

3 (2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish
4 such selection procedures and criteria as the Sec-
5 retary considers appropriate for the award of rec-
6 ognition under this subsection.

7 (p) MINIMIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON
8 PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS.—The Secretary shall take
9 such measures as may be necessary to minimize adminis-
10 trative burdens incurred by eligible employers due to par-
11 ticipation in the program.

12 (q) REPORTS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after
14 the completion of the first year of the program and
15 not later than 180 days after the completion of the
16 second and third years of the program, the Sec-
17 retary shall submit to Congress a report on the pro-
18 gram.

19 (2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under
20 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

21 (A) An evaluation of the program.

22 (B) The number and characteristics of
23 participants in the program.

1 (C) The number and types of internships
2 in which eligible individuals were placed under
3 the program.

4 (D) The number of individuals who ob-
5 tained long-term full-time unsubsidized employ-
6 ment positions after participation in the pro-
7 gram, the hourly wage and nature of such em-
8 ployment, and if available, whether such indi-
9 viduals were still employed in such positions
10 three months after obtaining such positions.

11 (E) An assessment of the feasibility and
12 advisability of providing career transition serv-
13 ices to eligible individuals.

14 (F) An assessment of the effect of the pro-
15 gram on earnings of eligible individuals and the
16 employment of eligible individuals.

17 (G) Such recommendations for legislative
18 and administrative action as the Secretary may
19 have to improve the program, to expand the
20 program, or to improve the employment of eligi-
21 ble individuals.

22 (r) FUNDING LIMITATIONS.—

23 (1) WAGES FOR INTERNSHIPS.—Not less than
24 95 percent of amounts authorized to be appropriated

1 for the program by subsection (t) shall be used to
2 provide pay under subsection (f)(3).

3 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—Not more than 5 per-
4 cent of amounts authorized to be appropriated for
5 the program by subsection (t) may be used to ad-
6 minister the program.

7 (s) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) ACTIVE DUTY, ARMED FORCES, RESERVE
9 COMPONENT, AND VETERAN.—The terms “active
10 duty”, “Armed Forces”, “reserve component”, and
11 “veteran” have the meanings given such terms in
12 section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

13 (2) FULL-TIME BASIS.—The term “full-time
14 basis”, with respect to an internship, means partici-
15 pation in the internship of not fewer than 30 hours
16 per week and not more than 40 hours per week.

17 (3) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term
18 “small business concern” has the meaning given
19 that term under section 3(a) of the Small Business
20 Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)).

21 (4) UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.—The
22 term “unemployment compensation” means regular
23 compensation (as defined in section 205 of the Fed-
24 eral-State Extended Unemployment Compensation
25 Act of 1970), compensation under the Federal-State

1 Extended Compensation Act of 1970, and compensa-
 2 tion under the emergency unemployment compensa-
 3 tion program under title IV of the Supplemental Ap-
 4 propriations Act, 2008.

5 (t) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 6 hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015
 7 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$600,000,000 to
 8 carry out this section. The amount so authorized to be
 9 appropriated shall remain available until expended.

10 **Subtitle D—Improving Employ-**
 11 **ment and Reemployment Rights**
 12 **of Members of the Uniformed**
 13 **Services**

14 **SEC. 431. ENFORCEMENT OF RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF UNI-**
 15 **FORMED SERVICES WITH RESPECT TO**
 16 **STATES AND PRIVATE EMPLOYERS.**

17 (a) ACTION FOR RELIEF.—Subsection (a) of section
 18 4323 is amended—

19 (1) in paragraph (1)—

20 (A) by striking “appear on behalf of, and
 21 act as attorney for, the person on whose behalf
 22 the complaint is submitted and”;

23 (B) by striking “for such person”;

24 (C) by striking the fourth sentence; and

1 (D) by adding at the end the following:

2 “The person on whose behalf the complaint is
3 referred may, upon timely application, intervene
4 in such action, and may obtain such appro-
5 priate relief as is provided in subsections (d)
6 and (e).”;

7 (2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the
8 following new paragraph (2):

9 “(2)(A) Not later than 60 days after the date the
10 Attorney General receives a referral under paragraph (1),
11 the Attorney General shall transmit, in writing, to the per-
12 son on whose behalf the complaint is submitted—

13 “(i) if the Attorney General has made a deci-
14 sion to commence an action for relief under para-
15 graph (1) relating to the complaint of the person,
16 notice of the decision; and

17 “(ii) if the Attorney General has not made such
18 a decision, notice of when the Attorney General ex-
19 pects to make such a decision.

20 “(B) If the Attorney General notifies a person that
21 the Attorney General expects to make a decision under
22 subparagraph (A)(ii), the Attorney General shall, not later
23 than 30 days after the date on which the Attorney General
24 makes such decision, notify, in writing, the person of such
25 decision.”;

1 (3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
2 graph (4);

3 (4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
4 lowing new paragraph (3):

5 “(3) Whenever the Attorney General has reasonable
6 cause to believe that a State (as an employer) or a private
7 employer is engaged in a pattern or practice of resistance
8 to the full enjoyment of any of the rights and benefits pro-
9 vided for under this chapter, and that the pattern or prac-
10 tice is of such a nature and is intended to deny the full
11 exercise of such rights and benefits, the Attorney General
12 may commence an action for relief under this chapter.”;
13 and

14 (5) in paragraph (4), as redesignated by para-
15 graph (3), by striking subparagraph (C) and insert-
16 ing the following new subparagraph (C):

17 “(C) has been notified by the Attorney General
18 that the Attorney General does not intend to com-
19 mence an action for relief under paragraph (1) with
20 respect to the complaint under such paragraph.”.

21 (b) **STANDING.**—Subsection (f) of such section is
22 amended to read as follows:

23 “(f) **STANDING.**—An action under this chapter may
24 be initiated only by the Attorney General or by a person

1 claiming rights or benefits under this chapter under sub-
 2 section (a).”.

3 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (h)(2)
 4 of such section is amended by striking “under subsection
 5 (a)(2)” and inserting “under paragraph (1) or (4) of sub-
 6 section (a)”.

7 **SEC. 432. SUSPENSION, TERMINATION, OR DEBARMENT OF**
 8 **CONTRACTORS FOR REPEATED VIOLATIONS**
 9 **OF EMPLOYMENT OR REEMPLOYMENT**
 10 **RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED SERV-**
 11 **ICES.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 43 is
 13 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

14 **“§ 4328. Suspension, termination, or debarment of**
 15 **contractors**

16 “(a) GROUNDS FOR SUSPENSION, TERMINATION, OR
 17 DEBARMENT.—Payment under a contract awarded by a
 18 Federal executive agency may be suspended and the con-
 19 tract may be terminated, and the contractor who made
 20 the contract with the agency may be suspended or
 21 debarred in accordance with the requirements of this sec-
 22 tion, if the head of the agency determines that the con-
 23 tractor as an employer has repeatedly been convicted of
 24 failing or refusing to comply with one or more provisions
 25 of this chapter.

1 “(b) EFFECT OF DEBARMENT.—A contractor
 2 debarred by a final decision under this section is ineligible
 3 for award of a contract by a Federal executive agency,
 4 and for participation in a future procurement by a Federal
 5 executive agency, for a period specified in the decision, not
 6 to exceed 5 years.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 8 at the beginning of chapter 43 is amended by inserting
 9 after the item relating to section 4327 the following new
 10 item:

“4328. Suspension, termination, or debarment of contractor.”.

11 (c) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after
 12 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisi-
 13 tion Regulatory Council shall amend the Federal Acquisi-
 14 tion Regulation to carry out section 4328 of title 38,
 15 United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

16 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 4328 of title 38,
 17 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall
 18 apply with respect to failures and refusals to comply with
 19 provisions of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code,
 20 occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this
 21 Act.

22 (e) ANNUAL REPORT.—Section 4332(a) is amend-
 23 ed—

24 (1) by redesignating paragraph (10) as para-
 25 graph (11); and

1 (2) by inserting after paragraph (9) the fol-
 2 lowing new paragraph (10):

3 “(10) The number of suspensions, terminations,
 4 and debarments under section 4328 of this title,
 5 disaggregated by the agency or department imposing
 6 the suspension or debarment.”.

7 **SEC. 433. SUBPOENA POWER FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL IN EN-**
 8 **FORCEMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND REEM-**
 9 **PLOYMENT RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF UNI-**
 10 **FORMED SERVICES WITH RESPECT TO FED-**
 11 **ERAL EXECUTIVE AGENCIES.**

12 Section 4324 is amended by adding at the end the
 13 following new subsection:

14 “(e)(1) In order to carry out the Special Counsel’s
 15 responsibilities under this section, the Special Counsel
 16 may require by subpoena the attendance and testimony
 17 of Federal employees and the production of documents
 18 from Federal employees and Federal executive agencies.

19 “(2) In the case of contumacy or failure to obey a
 20 subpoena issued under paragraph (1), upon application by
 21 the Special Counsel, the Merit Systems Protection Board
 22 may issue an order requiring a Federal employee or Fed-
 23 eral executive agency to comply with a subpoena of the
 24 Special Counsel.

1 “(3) An order issued under paragraph (2) may be
 2 enforced by the Merit Systems Protection Board in the
 3 same manner as any order issued under section 1204 of
 4 title 5.”.

5 **SEC. 434. ISSUANCE AND SERVICE OF CIVIL INVESTIGATIVE**
 6 **DEMANDS BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 4323 is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsection (i) as subsection
 9 (j); and

10 (2) by inserting after subsection (h) the fol-
 11 lowing new subsection (i):

12 “(i) ISSUANCE AND SERVICE OF CIVIL INVESTIGA-
 13 TIVE DEMANDS.—(1) Whenever the Attorney General has
 14 reason to believe that any person may be in possession,
 15 custody, or control of any documentary material relevant
 16 to an investigation under this subchapter, the Attorney
 17 General may, before commencing a civil action under sub-
 18 section (a), issue in writing and serve upon such person,
 19 a civil investigative demand requiring—

20 “(A) the production of such documentary mate-
 21 rial for inspection and copying;

22 “(B) that the custodian of such documentary
 23 material answer in writing written questions with re-
 24 spect to such documentary material; or

1 “(C) the production of any combination of such
2 documentary material or answers.

3 “(2) The provisions of section 3733 of title 31 gov-
4 erning the authority to issue, use, and enforce civil inves-
5 tigative demands shall apply with respect to the authority
6 to issue, use, and enforce civil investigative demands under
7 this section, except that, for purposes of applying such sec-
8 tion 3733—

9 “(A) references to false claims law investigators
10 or investigations shall be considered references to in-
11 vestigators or investigations under this subchapter;

12 “(B) references to interrogatories shall be con-
13 sidered references to written questions, and answers
14 to such need not be under oath;

15 “(C) the definitions relating to ‘false claims
16 law’ shall not apply; and

17 “(D) provisions relating to qui tam relators
18 shall not apply.”.

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (i) of section
20 4323 of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-
21 section (a)(2), shall take effect on the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act and shall apply with respect to violations
23 of chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code, alleged to
24 have occurred on or after such date.

1 (c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 4332(b)(2) is
2 amended—

3 (1) by striking “Not later than” and inserting
4 the following:

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
7 paragraph:

8 “(B) ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT ON CIVIL IN-
9 VESTIGATIVE DEMANDS.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney
11 General shall include with each report sub-
12 mitted under subparagraph (A) for the last
13 quarter of each fiscal year a report on the
14 issuance of civil investigative demands
15 under section 4323(i) of this title during
16 the most recently completed fiscal year.

17 “(ii) ELEMENTS.—Each report sub-
18 mitted under clause (i) shall include the
19 following for the fiscal year covered by the
20 report:

21 “(I) The number of times that a
22 civil investigative demand was issued
23 under section 4323(i) of this title.

24 “(II) For each civil investigative
25 demand issued under such section

1 with respect to an investigation,
2 whether such investigation resulted in
3 a settlement, order, or judgment.”.

4 **Subtitle E—Small Business Matters**

5 **SEC. 441. EXPANSION OF CONTRACTING GOALS AND PREF-**
6 **ERENCES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
7 **FAIRS TO INCLUDE CONDITIONALLY OWNED**
8 **SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS 100 PERCENT**
9 **OWNED BY VETERANS.**

10 Section 8127(l) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (2), by inserting “uncondition-
12 ally” before “owned by” each place it appears; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following new
14 paragraph:

15 “(3) The term ‘unconditionally owned’ includes,
16 with respect to ownership of a small business con-
17 cern, conditional ownership of such small business
18 concern if such business concern is 100 percent
19 owned by one or more veterans.”.

1 **SEC. 442. MODIFICATION OF TREATMENT UNDER CON-**
2 **TRACTING GOALS AND PREFERENCES OF DE-**
3 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR**
4 **SMALL BUSINESSES OWNED BY VETERANS OF**
5 **SMALL BUSINESSES AFTER DEATH OF DIS-**
6 **ABLED VETERAN OWNERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8127(h) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “rated as”
9 and all that follows through “disability.” and insert-
10 ing a period; and

11 (2) in paragraph (2), by amending subpara-
12 graph (C) to read as follows:

13 “(C) The date that—

14 “(i) in the case of a surviving spouse of a
15 veteran with a service-connected disability rated
16 as 100 percent disabling or who dies as a result
17 of a service-connected disability, is 10 years
18 after the date of the veteran’s death; or

19 “(ii) in the case of a surviving spouse of a
20 veteran with a service-connected disability rated
21 as less than 100 percent disabling who does not
22 die as a result of a service-connected disability,
23 is three years after the date of the veteran’s
24 death.”.

25 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
26 subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180

1 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall
 2 apply with respect to applications received pursuant to
 3 section 8127(f)(2) of title 38, United States Code, that
 4 are verified on or after such date.

5 **SEC. 443. TREATMENT OF BUSINESSES AFTER DEATHS OF**
 6 **SERVICEMEMBER-OWNERS FOR PURPOSES**
 7 **OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
 8 **CONTRACTING GOALS AND PREFERENCES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8127 is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating subsections (i) through (l)
 11 as subsections (j) through (m), respectively; and

12 (2) by inserting after subsection (h) the fol-
 13 lowing new subsection (i):

14 “(i) TREATMENT OF BUSINESSES AFTER DEATH OF
 15 SERVICEMEMBER-OWNER.—(1) If a member of the Armed
 16 Forces owns at least 51 percent of a small business con-
 17 cern and such member is killed in line of duty in the active
 18 military, naval, or air service, the surviving spouse or de-
 19 pendent child of such member who acquires such owner-
 20 ship rights in such small business concern shall, for the
 21 period described in paragraph (2), be treated as if the sur-
 22 viving spouse or dependent child were a veteran with a
 23 service-connected disability for purposes of determining
 24 the status of the small business concern as a small busi-
 25 ness concern owned and controlled by veterans for pur-

1 poses of contracting goals and preferences under this sec-
2 tion.

3 “(2) The period referred to in paragraph (1) is the
4 period beginning on the date on which the member of the
5 Armed Forces dies and ending on the date as follows:

6 “(A) In the case of a surviving spouse, the ear-
7 liest of the following dates:

8 “(i) The date on which the surviving
9 spouse remarries.

10 “(ii) The date on which the surviving
11 spouse relinquishes an ownership interest in the
12 small business concern and no longer owns at
13 least 51 percent of such small business concern.

14 “(iii) The date that is ten years after the
15 date of the member’s death.

16 “(B) In the case of a dependent child, the ear-
17 liest of the following dates:

18 “(i) The date on which the surviving de-
19 pendent child relinquishes an ownership interest
20 in the small business concern and no longer
21 owns at least 51 percent of such small business
22 concern.

23 “(ii) The date that is ten years after the
24 date of the member’s death.”.

1 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Subsection (i) of section
 2 8127 of title 38, United States Code, as added by sub-
 3 section (a), shall take effect on the date of the enactment
 4 of this Act and shall apply with respect to the deaths of
 5 members of the Armed Forces occurring on or after such
 6 date.

7 **SEC. 444. SPECIAL RULE FOR TREATMENT UNDER CON-**
 8 **TRACTING GOALS AND PREFERENCES OF DE-**
 9 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS OF SMALL**
 10 **BUSINESS CONCERNS LICENSED IN COMMU-**
 11 **NITY PROPERTY STATES.**

12 Section 8127, as amended by section 443 of this Act,
 13 is further amended by adding at the end the following new
 14 subsection:

15 “(n) **SPECIAL RULE FOR COMMUNITY PROPERTY**
 16 **STATES.**—Whenever the Secretary assesses, for purposes
 17 of this section, the degree of ownership by an individual
 18 of a small business concern licensed in a community prop-
 19 erty State, the Secretary shall also assess what that degree
 20 of ownership would be if such small business concern had
 21 been licensed in a State other than a community property
 22 State. If the Secretary determines that such individual
 23 would have had a greater degree of ownership of the small
 24 business concern had such small business concern been li-
 25 censed in a State other than a community property State,

1 the Secretary shall treat, for purposes of this section, such
2 small business concern as if it had been licensed in a State
3 other than a community property State.”.

4 **SEC. 445. REPORT ON ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS IN OB-**
5 **TAINING TRAINING ON PURCHASING AND OP-**
6 **ERATING A FRANCHISE.**

7 (a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year
8 after the effective date specified in subsection (c), the Sec-
9 retary of Labor shall, in consultation with the Secretary
10 of Veterans Affairs, the Administrator of the Small Busi-
11 ness Administration, and other appropriate entities, sub-
12 mit to Congress a report on the assistance available to
13 veterans to obtain training necessary to purchase and op-
14 erate a franchise.

15 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
16 (a) shall include the following:

17 (1) A description of the assistance available for
18 veterans through the Department of Labor, the De-
19 partment of Veterans Affairs, the Small Business
20 Administration, or any other agency of the Federal
21 Government in order to obtain training necessary to
22 purchase or operate a franchise.

23 (2) Information on the number of veterans who
24 have sought and obtained the training described in

1 paragraph (1) during the five calendar years pre-
 2 ceding the report.

3 (3) A description of any barriers encountered
 4 by veterans in obtaining the training described in
 5 paragraph (1).

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
 7 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
 8 ment of this Act.

9 **TITLE V—ACCOUNTABILITY AND**
 10 **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVE-**
 11 **MENTS**

12 **SEC. 501. ADMINISTRATION OF VETERANS INTEGRATED**
 13 **SERVICE NETWORKS.**

14 (a) VETERANS INTEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 73
 16 is amended by adding at the end the following new
 17 section:

18 **“§ 7310. Veterans Integrated Service Networks**

19 “(a) ORGANIZATION.—(1) The Secretary shall orga-
 20 nize the Veterans Health Administration in geographically
 21 defined Veterans Integrated Service Networks.

22 “(2) Each Veterans Integrated Service Network shall
 23 be organized in consideration of the following:

24 “(A) The size of the veteran population of the
 25 region of the network.

1 “(B) The complexity of the medical needs of
2 the veterans in such region.

3 “(C) Patient referral patterns.

4 “(D) The availability of a full continuum of
5 health care services.

6 “(E) The ability of the Department to furnish
7 health care efficiently.

8 “(F) Partnerships with non-Department health
9 care entities.

10 “(b) STAFFING MODEL.—(1) The Secretary shall es-
11 tablish a staffing model for each Veterans Integrated
12 Service Network that—

13 “(A) is appropriate for the mission and respon-
14 sibilities of the Veterans Integrated Service Net-
15 work; and

16 “(B) accounts for the specific health care needs
17 of differing populations in the Veterans Integrated
18 Service Network.

19 “(2) The Secretary shall ensure that each Veterans
20 Integrated Service Network complies with the staffing
21 model established by the Secretary under paragraph (1)
22 for such Veterans Integrated Service Network.

23 “(c) INTEGRATED HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.—The
24 Secretary shall ensure that each Veterans Integrated Serv-

1 ice Network maintains a regional integrated healthcare
2 system by—

3 “(1) implementing alliances with such other
4 governmental, public, and private health care organi-
5 zations and practitioners as the Secretary considers
6 appropriate to meet the needs of veterans in the
7 Network;

8 “(2) providing oversight and management of,
9 and taking responsibility for, a regional budget for
10 the activities of the Veterans Health Administration
11 in the geographic area of the Network that is—

12 “(A) aligned with the budget guidelines of
13 the Department and the Veterans Health Ad-
14 ministration;

15 “(B) balanced at the end of each fiscal
16 year; and

17 “(C) sufficient to provide high-quality
18 health care to veterans within the region and to
19 meet any unique needs of the veterans of the
20 region;

21 “(3) using national metrics to develop systems
22 to provide effective, efficient, and safe delivery of
23 health care; and

24 “(4) ensuring high-quality clinical programs
25 and services are rendered in and through—

1 “(A) the medical centers and outpatient
2 clinics of the Department that are located in
3 the Network; and

4 “(B) other non-Department clinical or
5 health care delivery settings located in the Net-
6 work.

7 “(d) REDUCTION IN DUPLICATE FUNCTIONS.—The
8 Secretary shall ensure that the Veterans Integrated Serv-
9 ice Networks identify and reduce, whenever practicable,
10 the duplication of functions in clinical, administrative, and
11 operational processes and practices of the Veterans Health
12 Administration.

13 “(e) COLLABORATION AND COOPERATION.—The Sec-
14 retary shall ensure that each Veterans Integrated Service
15 Network—

16 “(1) works to achieve maximum effectiveness in
17 patient care and safety, graduate medical education,
18 and research; and

19 “(2) assesses the consolidation or realignment
20 of institutional functions, including capital asset,
21 safety, and operational support functions, in collabo-
22 ration and cooperation with other Veterans Inte-
23 grated Service Networks and the following offices or
24 entities within the geographical area of the Network:

1 “(A) The offices of the Veterans Benefits
2 Administration and the National Cemetery Ad-
3 ministration.

4 “(B) The offices, installations, and facili-
5 ties of the Department of Defense, including
6 the offices, installations, and facilities of each
7 branch of the Armed Forces and the reserve
8 components of the Armed Forces.

9 “(C) The offices, installations, and facili-
10 ties of the Coast Guard.

11 “(D) Offices of State and local agencies
12 that have a mission to provide assistance to vet-
13 erans.

14 “(E) Medical schools and other affiliates.

15 “(F) Offices of Congress, offices of State
16 and local elected officials, and other government
17 offices.

18 “(G) Federal, State, and local emergency
19 preparedness organizations.

20 “(H) Community and nonprofit organiza-
21 tions.

22 “(I) Such other entities of the Federal
23 Government as the Secretary considers appro-
24 priate.

1 “(f) HEADQUARTERS.—(1) The Secretary shall en-
2 sure that each Veterans Integrated Service Network has
3 only one headquarters office.

4 “(2) The location of a headquarters office for a Vet-
5 erans Integrated Service Network shall be determined by
6 the Secretary and co-located with a Department of Vet-
7 erans Affairs medical center.

8 “(3)(A) The Secretary may employ or contract for
9 the services of such full time equivalent employees and
10 contractors at the headquarters of each Veterans Inte-
11 grated Service Network as the Secretary considers appro-
12 priate in accordance with the staffing models established
13 under subsection (b).

14 “(B) Not later than December 31 each year, the Sec-
15 retary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
16 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
17 the House of Representatives a report on employment at
18 the headquarters of Veterans Integrated Service Networks
19 during the most recently completed fiscal year.

20 “(C) Each report submitted under subparagraph (B)
21 shall include the following for the year covered by the re-
22 port:

23 “(i) The number of individuals employed at
24 each headquarters of a Veterans Integrated Service
25 Network.

1 “(ii) The number of individuals employed by the
2 Veterans Health Administration in each Veterans
3 Integrated Service Network who are not employed at
4 the same location as the headquarters of the Net-
5 work.

6 “(iii) The title for each position of employment
7 at a headquarters of a Veterans Integrated Service
8 Network.

9 “(iv) The title for each position of employment
10 with the Veterans Health Administration in each
11 Veterans Integrated Service Network that is not at
12 the same location as the headquarters of the Net-
13 work.

14 “(v) An assessment of the impact on the budget
15 of the Department by the employment of individuals
16 at the headquarters of the Veterans Integrated Serv-
17 ice Networks.

18 “(g) TRIENNIAL STRUCTURE REVIEW, REASSESS-
19 MENT, AND REPORT.—(1) Beginning three years after the
20 date of the enactment of this section and not less fre-
21 quently than once every three years thereafter, the Sec-
22 retary shall conduct a review and assessment of the struc-
23 ture and operations of the Veterans Integrated Service
24 Networks in order to identify recommendations—

1 “(A) for streamlining and reducing costs associ-
 2 ated with the operation of each headquarters of a
 3 Veterans Integrated Service Network; and

4 “(B) for reducing costs of health care within
 5 the Veterans Health Administration.

6 “(2) Not later than 180 days after conducting a re-
 7 view and assessment under paragraph (1), the Secretary
 8 shall submit to the Committee of Veterans’ Affairs of the
 9 Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the
 10 House of Representatives a report on such review and as-
 11 sessment, which shall include such recommendations for
 12 legislative or administrative action as the Secretary con-
 13 siders appropriate to improve the Veterans Integrated
 14 Service Networks.”.

15 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
 16 tions at the beginning of chapter 73 is amended by
 17 inserting after the item relating to section 7309 the
 18 following new item:

“7310. Veterans Integrated Service Networks.”.

19 (b) RELOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a head-
 21 quarters office of a Veterans Integrated Service Net-
 22 work that on the day before the date of the enact-
 23 ment of this Act was in a location that was not co-
 24 located with a Department of Veterans Affairs med-

1 ical center and the Secretary is engaged in a lease
2 for such location, the Secretary may—

3 (A) relocate such headquarters upon the
4 expiration of such lease so that such head-
5 quarters is co-located as required by section
6 7310(f)(2) of title 38, United States Code (as
7 added by subsection (a)(1)); or

8 (B) notwithstanding such section
9 7310(f)(2) (as so added), renew such lease or
10 enter into a new lease to keep such head-
11 quarters in such location.

12 (2) REPORT.—If the Secretary renews a lease
13 or engages in a new lease under paragraph (1)(B),
14 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
15 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
16 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives,
17 before renewing such lease or engaging in such
18 lease, a report describing the reasons for such re-
19 newal or engagement. Such report shall include the
20 following:

21 (A) A list of Department of Veterans Af-
22 fairs medical centers in the Veterans Integrated
23 Service Network of the headquarters with un-
24 derutilized buildings, the number of such build-

1 ings, and the total underutilized square footage
2 for each such medical center.

3 (B) The cost of the current lease (the an-
4 nual amount of rent, the total cost over the life
5 of the lease, and the total cost per square foot)
6 and the current square footage being leased.

7 (C) The cost of the new lease (the annual
8 amount of rent, the total cost over the life of
9 the lease, and the total cost per square foot)
10 and the square footage to be leased.

11 (c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be
12 construed to require any change in the location or type
13 of medical care or service provided by a Department of
14 Veterans Affairs medical center, a Department community
15 based outpatient clinic, a center for readjustment coun-
16 seling and related mental health services for veterans
17 under section 1712A of title 38, United States Code
18 (known as a “vet center”), or other facility that provides
19 direct care or services under a law administered by the
20 Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

21 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amend-
22 ments made by this section, shall take effect on the date
23 that is one year after the date of the enactment of this
24 Act.

1 **SEC. 502. REGIONAL SUPPORT CENTERS FOR VETERANS IN-**
2 **TEGRATED SERVICE NETWORKS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 73, as
4 amended by section 501(a)(1) of this Act, is further
5 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“§ 7310A. Regional support centers for Veterans Inte-**
7 **grated Service Networks**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
9 lish not more than four regional support centers within
10 the Veterans Health Administration to assess the effec-
11 tiveness and efficiency of the Veterans Integrated Service
12 Networks. The head of each regional support center shall
13 report to the Under Secretary of Health.

14 “(b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the regional sup-
15 port centers established under subsection (a) are as fol-
16 lows:

17 “(1) To assess the quality of work performed
18 within finance operations and other compliance re-
19 lated activities of the Veterans Integrated Service
20 Networks.

21 “(2) To assess how effectively and efficiently
22 each Veterans Integrated Service Network conducts
23 outreach to veterans who served in Operation En-
24 during Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Oper-
25 ation New Dawn, or any other contingency operation
26 (as that term is defined in section 101 of title 10).

1 “(3) To assess how effectively and efficiently
2 each Veterans Integrated Service Network conducts
3 programs for the benefit of women veterans.

4 “(4) To assess how effectively and efficiently
5 each Veterans Integrated Service Network conducts
6 programs that address homelessness among vet-
7 erans.

8 “(5) To assess how effectively and efficiently
9 each Veterans Integrated Service Network consumes
10 energy.

11 “(6) To assess such other matters concerning
12 the operations and activities of the Veterans Inte-
13 grated Service Networks as the Secretary considers
14 appropriate.

15 “(c) STAFF.—The Secretary may hire such employ-
16 ees and contractors as the Secretary considers appropriate
17 to carry out the functions of the regional support centers.

18 “(d) LOCATION OF REGIONAL SUPPORT CENTERS.—

19 (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the location of
20 each regional support center established under subsection
21 (a) shall be determined by the Secretary and co-located
22 with a medical center of the Department.

23 “(2) The Secretary may choose a location for a re-
24 gional support center established under subsection (a) that
25 is not co-located with a medical center of the Department

1 if the Secretary submits to the Committee on Veterans'
2 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
3 fairs of the House of Representatives, before entering into
4 a contract for a location that is not co-located with a med-
5 ical center, a report describing the reasons for choosing
6 a location for the regional support center that is not co-
7 located with a medical center of the Department. Such re-
8 port shall include the following:

9 “(A) A list of medical centers of the Depart-
10 ment in the Veterans Integrated Service Network of
11 the regional support center with underutilized build-
12 ings, the number of all Veterans Health Administra-
13 tion buildings in such Network, and the total under-
14 utilized square footage for each medical center of the
15 Department in such Network.

16 “(B) The estimated cost of such lease (the an-
17 nual amount of rent, the total cost over the life of
18 the lease, and the total cost per square foot) and the
19 square footage to be leased.”.

20 (b) INITIAL STAFFING.—In providing for the initial
21 staff of each regional support center established under sec-
22 tion 7310A(a) of title 38, United States Code, as added
23 by subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall,
24 to the degree practicable, transfer employees from head-
25 quarters of Veterans Integrated Service Networks to re-

1 gional support centers who were employed in positions at
2 such headquarters that covered functions similar to those
3 described in section 7310A(b) of such title, as so added.

4 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
5 at the beginning of chapter 73, as amended by section
6 501(a)(2) of this Act, is further amended by inserting
7 after the item relating to section 7310 the following new
8 item:

“7310A. Regional support centers for Veterans Integrated Service Networks.”.

9 (d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be
10 construed to require any change in the location or type
11 of medical care or service provided by a Department of
12 Veterans Affairs medical center, a Department community
13 based outpatient clinic, a center for readjustment coun-
14 seling and related mental health services for veterans
15 under section 1712A of title 38, United States Code
16 (known as a “vet center”), or other facility that provides
17 direct care or services under a law administered by the
18 Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

19 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amend-
20 ments made by this section, shall take effect on the date
21 that is one year after the date of the enactment of this
22 Act.

1 **SEC. 503. COMMISSION ON CAPITAL PLANNING FOR DE-**
2 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL**
3 **FACILITIES.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the
6 Commission on Capital Planning for Department of
7 Veterans Affairs Medical Facilities (in this section
8 referred to as the “Commission”).

9 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

10 (A) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Commission
11 shall, subject to subparagraph (B), be composed
12 of 10 voting members as follows:

13 (i) 1 shall be appointed by the Presi-
14 dent.

15 (ii) 1 shall be appointed by the Ad-
16 ministrator of General Services.

17 (iii) 3 shall be appointed by the Sec-
18 retary of Veterans Affairs, of whom—

19 (I) 1 shall be an employee of the
20 Veterans Health Administration;

21 (II) 1 shall be an employee of the
22 Office of Asset Enterprise Manage-
23 ment of the Department of Veterans
24 Affairs; and

25 (III) 1 shall be an employee of
26 the Office of Construction and Facili-

1 ties Management of the Department
2 of Veterans Affairs.

3 (iv) 1 shall be appointed by the Sec-
4 retary of Defense from among employees
5 of the Army Corps of Engineers.

6 (v) 1 shall be appointed by the major-
7 ity leader of the Senate.

8 (vi) 1 shall be appointed by the minor-
9 ity leader of the Senate.

10 (vii) 1 shall be appointed by the
11 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

12 (viii) 1 shall be appointed by the mi-
13 nority leader of the House of Representa-
14 tives.

15 (B) REQUIREMENT RELATING TO CERTAIN
16 APPOINTMENTS OF VOTING MEMBERS.—Of the
17 members appointed pursuant to clause (i), (ii),
18 and (iv) through (viii) of subparagraph (A), all
19 shall have expertise in capital leasing, construc-
20 tion, or health facility management planning.

21 (C) NON-VOTING MEMBERS.—The Com-
22 mission shall be assisted by 10 non-voting mem-
23 bers, appointed by the vote of a majority of
24 members of the Commission under subpara-
25 graph (A), of whom—

1 (i) 6 shall be representatives of vet-
2 erans service organizations recognized by
3 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

4 (ii) 4 shall be individuals from outside
5 the Department of Veterans Affairs with
6 experience and expertise in matters relat-
7 ing to management, construction, and leas-
8 ing of capital assets.

9 (D) DATE OF APPOINTMENT OF VOTING
10 MEMBERS.—The appointments of the members
11 of the Commission under subparagraph (A)
12 shall be made not later than 60 days after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act.

14 (3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—
15 Members shall be appointed for the life of the Com-
16 mission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not
17 affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same
18 manner as the original appointment.

19 (4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 15 days
20 after the date on which 7 members of the Commis-
21 sion have been appointed, the Commission shall hold
22 its first meeting.

23 (5) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at
24 the call of the Chair.

1 (6) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
2 the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a
3 lesser number of members may hold hearings.

4 (7) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—The Commission
5 shall select a Chair and Vice Chair from among its
6 members.

7 (b) DUTIES OF COMMISSION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall un-
9 dertake a comprehensive evaluation and assessment
10 of various options for capital planning for Depart-
11 ment of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, including
12 an evaluation and assessment of the mechanisms by
13 which the Department currently selects means for
14 the delivery of health care, whether by major con-
15 struction, major medical facility leases, sharing
16 agreements with the Department of Defense, the In-
17 dian Health Service, and Federally Qualified Health
18 Clinics under section 330 of the Public Health Serv-
19 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 254b), contract care, multisite
20 care, telemedicine, extended hours for care, or other
21 means.

22 (2) CONTEXT OF EVALUATION AND ASSESS-
23 MENT.—In undertaking the evaluation and assess-
24 ment, the Commission shall consider—

1 (A) the importance of access to health care
2 through the Department, including associated
3 guidelines of the Department on access to, and
4 drive time for, health care;

5 (B) limitations and requirements applica-
6 ble to the construction and leasing of medical
7 facilities for the Department, including applica-
8 ble laws, regulations, and costs as determined
9 by both the Congressional Budget Office and
10 the Office of Management and Budget;

11 (C) the nature of capital planning for De-
12 partment medical facilities in an era of fiscal
13 uncertainty;

14 (D) projected future fluctuations in the
15 population of veterans; and

16 (E) the extent to which the Department
17 was able to meet the mandates of the Capital
18 Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services Com-
19 mission.

20 (3) PARTICULAR CONSIDERATIONS.—In under-
21 taking the evaluation and assessment, the Commis-
22 sion shall address, in particular, the following:

23 (A) The Major Medical Facility Lease Pro-
24 gram of the Department, including an identi-

1 fication of potential improvements to the lease
2 authorization processes under that Program.

3 (B) The management processes of the De-
4 partment for its Major Medical Facility Con-
5 struction Program, including processes relating
6 to contract award and management, project
7 management, and processing of change orders.

8 (C) The overall capital planning program
9 of the Department for medical facilities, includ-
10 ing an evaluation and assessment of—

11 (i) the manner in which the Depart-
12 ment determines whether to use capital or
13 non-capital means to expand access to
14 health care;

15 (ii) the manner in which the Depart-
16 ment determines the disposition of under-
17 utilized and un-utilized buildings on cam-
18 puses of Department medical centers, and
19 any barriers to disposition;

20 (iii) the effectiveness of the facility
21 master planning initiative of the Depart-
22 ment; and

23 (iv) the extent to which sustainable
24 attributes are planned for to decrease oper-

1 ating costs for Department medical facili-
2 ties.

3 (D) The current backlog of construction
4 projects for Department medical facilities, in-
5 cluding an identification of the most effective
6 means to quickly secure the most critical re-
7 pairs required, including repairs relating to fa-
8 cility condition deficiencies, structural safety,
9 and compliance with the Americans With Dis-
10 abilities Act of 1990.

11 (4) REPORTS.—Subject to paragraph (5), the
12 Commission shall submit to the Secretary of Vet-
13 erans Affairs, and to the Committee Veterans' Af-
14 fairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans'
15 Affairs of the House of Representatives, reports as
16 follows:

17 (A) Not later than six months after its ini-
18 tial meeting under subsection (a)(4), a report
19 on the Major Medical Facility Lease Program
20 and the Congressional lease authorization proc-
21 ess.

22 (B) Not later than one year after its initial
23 meeting, a report—

1 (i) on the management processes of
2 the Department for the construction of De-
3 partment medical facilities; and

4 (ii) setting forth an update of any
5 matters covered in the report under sub-
6 paragraph (A).

7 (C) Not later than 18 months after its ini-
8 tial meeting, a report—

9 (i) on the overall capital planning pro-
10 gram of the Department for medical facili-
11 ties; and

12 (ii) setting forth an update of any
13 matters covered in earlier reports under
14 this paragraph.

15 (D) Not later than two years after its ini-
16 tial meeting, a report—

17 (i) on the current backlog of construc-
18 tion projects for Department medical facili-
19 ties;

20 (ii) setting forth an update of any
21 matters covered in earlier reports under
22 this paragraph; and

23 (iii) including such other matters re-
24 lating to the duties of the Commission that
25 the Commission considers appropriate.

1 (E) Not later than 27 months after its ini-
2 tial meeting, a report on the implementation by
3 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs pursuant to
4 subsection (g) of the recommendations included
5 pursuant to paragraph (5) in the reports under
6 this paragraph.

7 (5) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each report under
8 paragraph (4) shall include, for the aspect of the
9 capital asset planning process of the Department
10 covered by such report, such recommendations as
11 the Commission considers appropriate for the im-
12 provement and enhancement of such aspect of the
13 capital asset planning process.

14 (c) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

15 (1) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold
16 such hearings, sit and act at such times and places,
17 take such testimony, and receive such evidence as
18 the Commission considers advisable to carry out this
19 section.

20 (2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—
21 The Commission may secure directly from any Fed-
22 eral department or agency such information as the
23 Commission considers necessary to carry out this
24 section. Upon request of the Chair of the Commis-

1 sion, the head of such department or agency shall
2 furnish such information to the Commission.

3 (d) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

4 (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each mem-
5 ber of the Commission who is not an officer or em-
6 ployee of the Federal Government shall be com-
7 pensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of
8 the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV
9 of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title
10 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel
11 time) during which such member is engaged in the
12 performance of the duties of the Commission. All
13 members of the Commission who are officers or em-
14 ployees of the United States shall serve without com-
15 pensation in addition to that received for their serv-
16 ices as officers or employees of the United States.

17 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the
18 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-
19 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-
20 ized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of
21 chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
22 away from their homes or regular places of business
23 in the performance of services for the Commission.

24 (3) STAFF.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chair of the Com-
2 mission may, without regard to the civil service
3 laws and regulations, appoint and terminate an
4 executive director and such other additional
5 personnel as may be necessary to enable the
6 Commission to perform its duties. The employ-
7 ment of an executive director shall be subject to
8 confirmation by the Commission.

9 (B) COMPENSATION.—The Chair of the
10 Commission may fix the compensation of the
11 executive director and other personnel without
12 regard to chapter 51 and subchapter III of
13 chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relat-
14 ing to classification of positions and General
15 Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of pay
16 for the executive director and other personnel
17 may not exceed the rate payable for level V of
18 the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of
19 such title.

20 (4) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—
21 Any Federal Government employee may be detailed
22 to the Commission without reimbursement, and such
23 detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil
24 service status or privilege.

1 (5) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTER-
2 MITTENT SERVICES.—The Chair of the Commission
3 may procure temporary and intermittent services
4 under section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code,
5 at rates for individuals which do not exceed the daily
6 equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed
7 for level V of the Executive Schedule under section
8 5316 of such title.

9 (e) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—The Commis-
10 sion shall terminate 60 days after the date on which the
11 Commission submits its report under subsection
12 (b)(4)(E).

13 (f) FUNDING.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
14 shall make available to the Commission such amounts as
15 the Secretary and the Chair of the Commission jointly
16 consider appropriate for the Commission to perform its
17 duties under this section.

18 (g) ACTION ON RECOMMENDATIONS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
20 Affairs shall implement each recommendation in-
21 cluded in a report under subsection (b)(4) that the
22 Secretary considers feasible and advisable and can
23 be implemented without further legislative action.

24 (2) REPORTS.—Not later than 120 days after
25 receipt of a report under subparagraphs (A) through

1 (D) of subsection (b)(4), the Secretary shall submit
2 to the Committee Veterans' Affairs of the Senate
3 and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
4 House of Representatives a report setting forth the
5 following:

6 (A) An assessment of the feasibility and
7 advisability of each recommendation contained
8 in such report.

9 (B) For each recommendation assessed as
10 feasible and advisable—

11 (i) if such recommendation does not
12 require further legislative action for imple-
13 mentation, a description of the actions
14 taken, and to be taken, by the Secretary to
15 implement such recommendation; and

16 (ii) if such recommendation requires
17 further legislative action for implementa-
18 tion, recommendations for such legislative
19 action.

20 **SEC. 504. ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CERTAIN AC-**
21 **COUNTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
22 **AFFAIRS.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 117 is amended—

1 (1) by striking “medical care accounts of the
2 Department” each place it appears and inserting
3 “covered accounts of the Department”;

4 (2) in subsection (c)—

5 (A) by striking “medical care accounts of
6 the Veterans Health Administration, Depart-
7 ment of Veterans Affairs account” and insert-
8 ing “accounts of the Department of Veterans
9 Affairs account”;

10 (B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Vet-
11 erans Health Administration,” after “(1)”;

12 (C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “Vet-
13 erans Health Administration,” after “(2)”;

14 (D) in paragraph (3), by inserting “Vet-
15 erans Health Administration,” after “(3)”;

16 (E) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
17 through (3) as paragraphs (7) through (9), re-
18 spectively;

19 (F) by inserting before paragraph (7), as
20 redesignated by subparagraph (E), the fol-
21 lowing new paragraphs:

22 “(1) Veterans Benefits Administration, Com-
23 pensation and Pensions.

24 “(2) Veterans Benefits Administration, Read-
25 justment Benefits.

1 “(3) Veterans Benefits Administration, Vet-
2 erans Insurance and Indemnities.

3 “(4) Veterans Benefits Administration, Vet-
4 erans Housing Benefit Program Fund.

5 “(5) Veterans Benefits Administration, Voca-
6 tional Rehabilitation Loans Program Account.

7 “(6) Veterans Benefits Administration, Native
8 American Veteran Housing Loan Program Ac-
9 count.”; and

10 (G) in the subsection heading, by striking

11 “MEDICAL CARE ACCOUNTS” and inserting

12 “COVERED ACCOUNTS”; and

13 (3) in the section heading, by striking “**cer-**

14 **tain medical care accounts**” and inserting

15 “**certain accounts**”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by

17 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to fiscal year 2016

18 and each subsequent fiscal year.

19 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1105 of

20 title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking the

21 first paragraph (37) and inserting the following:

22 “(37) information on estimates of appropria-

23 tions for the fiscal year following the fiscal year for

24 which the budget is submitted for the following ac-

25 counts of the Department of Veterans Affairs:

1 “(A) Veterans Benefits Administration,
2 Compensation and Pensions.

3 “(B) Veterans Benefits Administration,
4 Readjustment Benefits.

5 “(C) Veterans Benefits Administration,
6 Veterans Insurance and Indemnities.

7 “(D) Veterans Benefits Administration,
8 Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund.

9 “(E) Veterans Benefits Administration,
10 Vocational Rehabilitation Loans Program Ac-
11 count.

12 “(F) Veterans Benefits Administration,
13 Native American Veteran Housing Loan Pro-
14 gram Account.

15 “(G) Veterans Health Administration,
16 Medical Services.

17 “(H) Veterans Health Administration,
18 Medical Support and Compliance.

19 “(I) Veterans Health Administration, Med-
20 ical Facilities.”.

21 (d) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Such section is fur-
22 ther amended by redesignating the second paragraph (37),
23 as added by section 11(a)(2) of the GPRA Modernization
24 Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–352; 124 Stat. 3881), as
25 paragraph (39).

1 **SEC. 505. PUBLIC ACCESS TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
2 **AFFAIRS RESEARCH AND DATA SHARING BE-**
3 **TWEEN DEPARTMENTS.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNET WEBSITE.—The
5 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make available on an
6 Internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs
7 available to the public the following:

8 (1) Data files that contain information on re-
9 search of the Department.

10 (2) A data dictionary on each data file.

11 (3) Instructions for how to obtain access to
12 each data file for use in research.

13 (b) PUBLIC ACCESS TO MANUSCRIPTS ON DEPART-
14 MENT FUNDED RESEARCH.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than
16 540 days after the effective date specified in sub-
17 section (e), the Secretary shall require, as a condi-
18 tion on the use of any data gathered or formulated
19 from research funded by the Department, that any
20 final, peer-reviewed manuscript prepared for publica-
21 tion that uses such data be submitted to the Sec-
22 retary for deposit in the digital archive under para-
23 graph (2) and publication under paragraph (3).

24 (2) DIGITAL ARCHIVE.—Not later than 540
25 days after the effective date specified in subsection
26 (e), the Secretary shall—

1 (A) establish a digital archive consisting of
2 manuscripts described in paragraph (1); or

3 (B) partner with another executive agency
4 to compile such manuscripts in a digital ar-
5 chive.

6 (3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

7 (A) AVAILABILITY OF ARCHIVE.—The Sec-
8 retary shall ensure that the digital archive
9 under paragraph (2) and the contents of such
10 archive are available to the public via a publicly
11 accessible Internet website at no cost to the
12 public.

13 (B) AVAILABILITY OF MANUSCRIPTS.—The
14 Secretary shall ensure that each manuscript
15 submitted to the Secretary under paragraph (1)
16 is available to the public under subparagraph
17 (A) not later than one year after the official
18 date on which the manuscript is otherwise pub-
19 lished.

20 (4) CONSISTENT WITH COPYRIGHT LAW.—The
21 Secretary shall carry out this subsection in a man-
22 ner consistent with applicable copyright law.

23 (5) ANNUAL REPORT.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
25 after the date the Secretary begins making

1 manuscripts available to the public under this
2 subsection and not less frequently than once
3 each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit
4 to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
5 Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
6 of the House of Representatives a report on the
7 implementation of this subsection during the
8 most recent one-year period.

9 (B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted
10 under subparagraph (A) shall include for the
11 period of the report:

12 (i) The number of manuscripts sub-
13 mitted under paragraph (1).

14 (ii) The titles of such manuscripts.

15 (iii) The authors of such manuscripts.

16 (iv) For each such manuscript, the
17 name and issue number or volume number,
18 as the case may be, of the journal or other
19 publication in which such manuscript was
20 published.

21 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DATA SHARING BE-
22 TWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND DE-
23 PARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—Not later than one year after
24 the effective date specified in subsection (e), the Depart-
25 ment of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense Joint

1 Executive Committee established by section 320(a) of title
2 38, United States Code, shall submit to the Secretary of
3 Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense options and
4 recommendations for the establishment of a program for
5 long-term cooperation and data sharing between and with-
6 in the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Depart-
7 ment of Defense to facilitate research on outcomes of mili-
8 tary service, readjustment after combat deployment, and
9 other topics of importance to the following:

10 (1) Veterans.

11 (2) Members of the Armed Forces.

12 (3) Family members of veterans.

13 (4) Family members of members of the Armed
14 Forces.

15 (5) Members of communities that have a sig-
16 nificant population of veterans or members of the
17 Armed Forces.

18 (d) EXECUTIVE AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section,
19 the term “executive agency” has the meaning given that
20 term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

21 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
22 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
23 ment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 506. ASSESSMENT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF**
2 **THE UNITED STATES OF INFORMATION MADE**
3 **AVAILABLE BY VETERANS BENEFITS ADMIN-**
4 **ISTRATION.**

5 (a) ASSESSMENT OF INFORMATION CURRENTLY
6 AVAILABLE.—Not later than two years after the date of
7 the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
8 United States shall—

9 (1) conduct an assessment of the process by
10 which the Veterans Benefits Administration informs
11 veterans, veterans service organizations, and such
12 other persons as the Comptroller General considers
13 appropriate regarding the furnishing of benefits
14 under laws administered by the Secretary of Vet-
15 erans Affairs to determine the extent to which the
16 process results in disseminated information that—

17 (A) adequately supports and improves the
18 timeliness and accuracy of decisions made by
19 the Administration with respect to claims for
20 disability compensation and such other benefits
21 furnished under laws administered by the Sec-
22 retary of Veterans Affairs as the Comptroller
23 General considers appropriate; and

24 (B) encourages the filing of fully developed
25 claims for benefits under laws administered by
26 the Secretary; and

1 (2) assess how the Veterans Benefits Adminis-
2 tration notifies each claimant during, and as part of,
3 any electronic filing process established by the Sec-
4 retary for the filing of applications for disability
5 compensation and such other benefits under laws ad-
6 ministered by the Secretary as the Comptroller Gen-
7 eral considers appropriate that services may be
8 available to the claimant from a veterans service or-
9 ganization.

10 (b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
11 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
12 submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Sen-
13 ate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House
14 of Representatives a report on the findings of the Comp-
15 troller General under subsection (a). Such report shall in-
16 clude such recommendations as the Comptroller General
17 may have for legislative or administrative action to im-
18 prove the availability of information made available to the
19 public by the Veterans Benefits Administration regarding
20 the furnishing of benefits under laws administered by the
21 Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

22 (c) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—
23 In this section, the term “veterans service organization”
24 means an organization recognized by the Secretary of Vet-

1 erans Affairs for the representation of veterans under sec-
2 tion 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

3 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
4 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 507. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON ADVISORY**
7 **COMMITTEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
8 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
10 effective date specified in subsection (c), the Comptroller
11 General shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Af-
12 fairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
13 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the advi-
14 sory committees of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

15 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection
16 (a)—

17 (1) shall include—

18 (A) recommendations or proposals for con-
19 tinuing, modifying, or terminating certain advi-
20 sory committees, including noting areas of over-
21 lap and duplication among the advisory commit-
22 tees; and

23 (B) such other information as the Comp-
24 troller General considers appropriate; and

25 (2) may include—

1 (A) a description of each advisory com-
2 mittee, including with respect to each com-
3 mittee—

4 (i) the purpose of the committee;

5 (ii) the commencement date of the
6 committee; and

7 (iii) the anticipated termination date
8 of the committee;

9 (B) a summary of the anticipated expenses
10 and the actual expenses incurred for each advi-
11 sory committee during the most recent three
12 fiscal years ending before the date of the enact-
13 ment of this Act; and

14 (C) with respect to meetings held by each
15 advisory committee—

16 (i) the frequency with which each
17 committee has met during the shorter of—

18 (I) the most recent three fiscal
19 years ending before the date of the
20 enactment of this Act; and

21 (II) the life of the committee;

22 (ii) the date of the most recent meet-
23 ing held by the committee before such date
24 of enactment; and

1 (iii) the date of the most recent report
2 or other written product developed by the
3 committee before such date of enactment.

4 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
5 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act.

7 **TITLE VI—IMPROVEMENT OF**
8 **PROCESSING OF CLAIMS FOR**
9 **COMPENSATION**

10 **Subtitle A—Claims Based on**
11 **Military Sexual Trauma**

12 **SEC. 601. MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND OPINION FOR DIS-**
13 **ABILITY COMPENSATION CLAIMS BASED ON**
14 **MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5103A(d) is amended by
16 adding at the end the following new paragraph:

17 “(3)(A) In the case of a claim for disability com-
18 pensation based on a mental health condition related to
19 military sexual trauma, the Secretary shall treat an exam-
20 ination or opinion as being necessary to make a decision
21 on a claim for purposes of paragraph (1) if the evidence
22 of record before the Secretary, taking into consideration
23 all information and lay or medical evidence (including
24 statements of the claimant)—

1 “(i)(I) contains competent evidence that the
2 claimant has a current disability, or persistent or re-
3 current symptoms of disability; and

4 “(II) indicates that the disability or symptoms
5 may be associated with the claimant’s active mili-
6 tary, naval, or air service; but

7 “(ii) does not contain a diagnosis or opinion by
8 a mental health professional that may assist in cor-
9 roborating the occurrence of a military sexual trau-
10 ma stressor related to a diagnosable mental health
11 condition.

12 “(B) In this paragraph, the term ‘military sexual
13 trauma’ shall have the meaning specified by the Secretary
14 for purposes of this paragraph, and shall include ‘sexual
15 harassment’ (as so specified).”.

16 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
18 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’
19 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
20 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the num-
21 ber of examinations and opinions conducted by the Sec-
22 retary pursuant to paragraph (3) of section 5103A(d) of
23 title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)),
24 including the following:

1 (1) The number of examinations conducted
2 using a standardized disability assessment.

3 (2) The number of examinations conducted
4 using a non-standardized clinical interview.

5 **SEC. 602. CASE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICERS FOR MILITARY**
6 **SEXUAL TRAUMA SUPPORT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
8 shall assign to each individual seeking compensation under
9 the laws administered by the Secretary based on military
10 sexual trauma a case representative officer who shall pro-
11 vide advice and general information to such individual on
12 the claims process for such compensation. Each case rep-
13 resentative officer so assigned shall be assigned from
14 among current personnel of the Department of Veterans
15 Affairs.

16 (b) LIAISON.—A case representative officer assigned
17 to an individual under subsection (a) shall be responsible
18 for serving as a liaison between the individual, an author-
19 ized agent or attorney of the individual under section 5904
20 of title 38, United States Code, or an otherwise accredited
21 representative of the individual, and the Department of
22 Veterans Affairs on matters relating to the claim of the
23 individual for compensation under the laws administered
24 by the Secretary.

1 (c) CASE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICER REQUIRE-
2 MENTS.—

3 (1) COMPETENCE AND KNOWLEDGE.—Each
4 case representative officer assigned under subsection
5 (a) shall be competent and knowledgeable about the
6 following:

7 (A) The claims adjudication process and
8 applicable laws, regulations, and other authority
9 applicable to the adjudication of disability
10 claims based on military sexual trauma.

11 (B) Such other services to victims of sex-
12 ual trauma as the Secretary considers appro-
13 priate.

14 (2) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
15 TO WHICH ASSIGNED.—A case representative officer
16 may not be assigned to more individuals described in
17 subsection (a) than, as determined by the Secretary,
18 is appropriate for the provision of individual case
19 management assistance by such officer.

20 (d) INFORMATION ON BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS RE-
21 LATING TO MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make
23 available to the public information on the availability
24 of case representative officers under subsection (a)
25 to assist in the application for benefits based on

1 military sexual trauma. The Secretary shall revise
2 and update the information so made available in
3 order to ensure that the information is as current as
4 possible.

5 (2) INDIVIDUALS SEPARATING FROM MILITARY
6 SERVICE.—The Secretary shall, in consultation with
7 the Secretary of Defense, ensure that individuals
8 who are being separated from the active military,
9 naval, or air service are provided appropriate infor-
10 mation about programs, requirements, and proce-
11 dures for applying for benefits based on military sex-
12 ual trauma and the availability of case representa-
13 tive officers under subsection (a).

14 (e) INFORMATION ON TRAINING FOR AGENTS AND
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIVIDUALS ASSIGNED CASE
16 REPRESENTATIVE OFFICER.—The Secretary shall make
17 available to the authorized agent or attorney of an indi-
18 vidual assigned a case representative under subsection (a),
19 or to the otherwise accredited representative of the indi-
20 vidual, any relevant materials used to train such case rep-
21 resentative officer for the duties of such position.

22 (f) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WOMEN VETERANS
23 CONSIDERATION OF MECHANISMS TO ENHANCE COORDI-
24 NATION BETWEEN VBA AND VHA ON BENEFITS FOR
25 MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The Advisory Committee

1 on Women Veterans established under section 542 of title
2 38, United States Code, shall undertake actions to identify
3 mechanisms to enhance coordination between the Veterans
4 Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Admin-
5 istration in the provision of benefits based on military sex-
6 ual trauma, including the identification of barriers to the
7 appropriate provision of benefits for military sexual trau-
8 ma by such Administrations and of means of eliminating
9 or reducing such barriers.

10 (g) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than an-
11 nually, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to
12 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the
13 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives a report setting forth the following:

15 (1) A certification whether or not the case rep-
16 resentative officers assigned under subsection (a)
17 during the preceding year met the requirements
18 specified in subsection (c).

19 (2) A description of the current training the
20 Secretary provides to employees of the Veterans
21 Benefits Administration on claims for benefits based
22 on military sexual trauma, including the frequency,
23 length, and content of such training.

24 (3) A description of current policies and proce-
25 dures on the training the Secretary provides to case

1 representative officers, including the current position
2 descriptions for case representative officers.

3 (4) A description of current efforts to coordi-
4 nate activities and assistance provided to individuals
5 who seek care or benefits for military sexual trauma
6 between the Veterans Health Administration and
7 Veterans Benefits Administration, including the ef-
8 forts of the Advisory Committee on Women Veterans
9 under subsection (f).

10 (h) SUNSET.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—No case representative offi-
12 cer may be assigned under subsection (a) after De-
13 cember 31, 2018.

14 (2) CONTINUATION OF DUTIES AFTER SUNSET
15 DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall not be construed to pro-
16 hibit any case representative officer assigned to an
17 individual before the date specified in that para-
18 graph from performing duties pursuant to this sec-
19 tion after that date with respect to a claim for which
20 that case representative officer was assigned to such
21 individual before that date.

22 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, OR AIR SERV-
24 ICE.—The term “active military, naval, or air serv-

1 ice” has the meaning given that term in section 101
2 of title 38, United States Code.

3 (2) MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term
4 “military sexual trauma” shall have the meaning
5 specified by the Secretary for purposes of this sec-
6 tion, and shall include “sexual harassment” (as so
7 specified).

8 **SEC. 603. REPORT ON STANDARD OF PROOF FOR SERVICE-**
9 **CONNECTION OF MENTAL HEALTH CONDI-**
10 **TIONS RELATED TO MILITARY SEXUAL TRAU-**
11 **MA.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
14 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’
15 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Af-
16 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the cur-
17 rent standard of proof for service-connection under chap-
18 ter 11 of title 38, United States Code, for covered mental
19 health conditions based on military sexual trauma.

20 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary shall in-
21 clude in the report under subsection (a) any recommenda-
22 tions the Secretary considers appropriate to improve the
23 adjudication of claims for compensation based on military
24 sexual trauma, including—

1 (1) recommendations for an appropriate stand-
2 ard of proof for such claims if the Secretary con-
3 sidered such recommendations advisable; and

4 (2) recommendations for legislative action, if
5 necessary, to carry out such improvement.

6 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, OR AIR SERV-
8 ICE.—The term “active military, naval, or air serv-
9 ice” has the meaning given that term in section 101
10 of title 38, United States Code.

11 (2) COVERED MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION.—
12 The term “covered mental health condition” means
13 post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression,
14 or other mental health diagnosis that the Secretary
15 determines to be related to military sexual trauma.

16 (3) MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term
17 “military sexual trauma” shall have the meaning
18 specified by the Secretary for purposes of this sec-
19 tion, and shall include “sexual harassment” (as so
20 specified).

21 **SEC. 604. REPORTS ON CLAIMS FOR DISABILITIES IN-**
22 **CURRED OR AGGRAVATED BY MILITARY SEX-**
23 **UAL TRAUMA.**

24 (a) REPORTS.—Not later than December 1, 2014,
25 and each year thereafter through 2018, the Secretary of

1 Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the
2 covered claims submitted to the Secretary during the pre-
3 vious fiscal year.

4 (b) ELEMENTS.—Each report under subsection (a)
5 shall include the following:

6 (1) The number of covered claims submitted to
7 or considered by the Secretary during the fiscal year
8 covered by the report.

9 (2) Of the covered claims under paragraph (1),
10 the number and percentage of such claims—

11 (A) submitted by each gender;

12 (B) that were approved, including the
13 number and percentage of such approved claims
14 submitted by each gender; and

15 (C) that were denied, including the number
16 and percentage of such denied claims submitted
17 by each gender.

18 (3) Of the covered claims under paragraph (1)
19 that were approved, the number and percentage, list-
20 ed by each gender, of claims assigned to each rating
21 percentage of disability.

22 (4) Of the covered claims under paragraph (1)
23 that were denied—

24 (A) the three most common reasons given
25 by the Secretary under section 5104(b)(1) of

1 title 38, United States Code, for such denials;
2 and

3 (B) the number of denials that were based
4 on the failure of a veteran to report for a med-
5 ical examination.

6 (5) Of the covered claims under paragraph (1)
7 that were resubmitted to the Secretary after denial
8 in a previous adjudication—

9 (A) the number of such claims submitted
10 to or considered by the Secretary during the fis-
11 cal year covered by the report;

12 (B) the number and percentage of such
13 claims—

14 (i) submitted by each gender;

15 (ii) that were approved, including the
16 number and percentage of such approved
17 claims submitted by each gender; and

18 (iii) that were denied, including the
19 number and percentage of such denied
20 claims submitted by each gender;

21 (C) the number and percentage, listed by
22 each gender, of claims assigned to each rating
23 percentage of disability; and

24 (D) of such claims that were again de-
25 nied—

1 (i) the three most common reasons
2 given by the Secretary under section
3 5104(b)(1) of such title for such denials;
4 and

5 (ii) the number of denials that were
6 based on the failure of a veteran to report
7 for a medical examination.

8 (6) The number of covered claims that, as of
9 the end of the fiscal year covered by the report, are
10 pending and, separately, the number of such claims
11 on appeal.

12 (7) For the fiscal year covered by the report,
13 the average number of days that covered claims take
14 to complete beginning on the date on which the
15 claim is submitted.

16 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, OR AIR SERV-
18 ICE.—The term “active military, naval, or air serv-
19 ice” has the meaning given that term in section 101
20 of title 38, United States Code.

21 (2) COVERED CLAIMS.—The term “covered
22 claims” means claims for disability compensation
23 submitted to the Secretary based on post traumatic
24 stress disorder alleged to have been incurred or ag-
25 gravated by military sexual trauma.

1 (3) MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA.—The term
2 “military sexual trauma” shall have the meaning
3 specified by the Secretary for purposes of this sec-
4 tion, and shall include “sexual harassment” (as so
5 specified).

6 **Subtitle B—Claims for Dependency**
7 **and Indemnity Compensation**

8 **SEC. 611. PROGRAM ON TREATMENT OF CERTAIN APPLICA-**
9 **TIONS FOR DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY**
10 **COMPENSATION AS FULLY DEVELOPED**
11 **CLAIMS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
13 shall carry out a program to assess the feasibility and ad-
14 visability of expediting the treatment of a covered depend-
15 ency and indemnity compensation claim.

16 (b) COVERED DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COM-
17 PENSATION CLAIMS.—For purposes of this section, a cov-
18 ered dependency and indemnity compensation claim is a
19 claim submitted to the Secretary for compensation under
20 chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code, for which the
21 claimant—

22 (1) applies for such compensation within one-
23 year of the death of the veteran upon whose service
24 the claim is based;

1 (2) was the dependent on the claim of a veteran
2 who was receiving benefits for one or more service-
3 connected conditions as of the date of death;

4 (3) submits a death certificate or other evidence
5 with the claim indicating that the veteran's death
6 was due to a service-connected or compensable dis-
7 ability; and

8 (4) in the case that the claimant is the spouse
9 of the deceased veteran, certifies that he or she has
10 not remarried since the date of the veteran's death.

11 (c) DURATION.—The program shall be carried out
12 during the one-year period beginning on the date that is
13 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 (d) LOCATIONS.—The program shall be carried out
15 at the Pension Management Center of the Department of
16 Veterans Affairs or such centers selected by the Secretary
17 for purposes of the program.

18 (e) REPORT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days
20 after the date on which the program is completed,
21 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
22 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
23 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a
24 report on the program.

1 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required by para-
2 graph (1) shall include the following:

3 (A) The number of covered dependency
4 and indemnity compensation claims that were
5 adjudicated under the program, disaggregated
6 by the following:

7 (i) Claims in which the claimant
8 claimed entitlement to compensation on the
9 basis of the claimant's status as the spouse
10 of a deceased veteran.

11 (ii) Claims in which the claimant
12 claimed entitlement to compensation on the
13 basis of the claimant's status as the child
14 of a deceased veteran.

15 (iii) Claims in which the claimant
16 claimed entitlement to compensation on the
17 basis of the claimant's status as the parent
18 of a deceased veteran.

19 (B) The number of covered dependency
20 and indemnity compensation claims that were
21 adjudicated under the program and for which
22 compensation was not awarded, disaggregated
23 by clauses (i) through (iii) of subparagraph (A).

24 (C) A comparison of the accuracy and
25 timeliness of claims adjudicated under the pro-

1 gram with claims submitted to the Secretary for
2 compensation under chapter 13 of title 38,
3 United States Code, that were not provided ex-
4 peditious treatment under the program.

5 (D) The findings of the Secretary with re-
6 spect to the program.

7 (E) Such recommendations as the Sec-
8 retary may have for legislative or administrative
9 action to improve the adjudication of claims
10 submitted to the Secretary for compensation
11 under chapter 13 of title 38, United States
12 Code.

13 **SEC. 612. REPORT BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
14 **ON IMPROVING TIMELINESS AND ACCURACY**
15 **OF ADMINISTRATION OF CLAIMS FOR DE-**
16 **PENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION**
17 **AND PENSION FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES AND**
18 **CHILDREN.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 455 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
21 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans'
22 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
23 fairs of the House of Representatives a report with rec-
24 ommendations for legislative or administrative actions to
25 improve the timeliness and accuracy with which the Sec-

1 retary processes and adjudicates claims for compensation
 2 under chapter 13 of title 38, United States Code, and pen-
 3 sion under sections 1541 and 1542 of such title.

4 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
 5 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
 6 ment of this Act.

7 **Subtitle C—Agency of Original** 8 **Jurisdiction**

9 **SEC. 621. WORKING GROUP TO IMPROVE EMPLOYEE WORK** 10 **CREDIT AND WORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS** 11 **OF VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION IN** 12 **AN ELECTRONIC ENVIRONMENT.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
 14 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
 15 Veterans Affairs shall establish a working group to assess
 16 and develop recommendations for the improvement of the
 17 employee work credit and work management systems of
 18 the Veterans Benefits Administration in an electronic en-
 19 vironment.

20 (b) COMPOSITION.—The working group shall be com-
 21 posed of the following:

- 22 (1) The Secretary or the Secretary's designee.
- 23 (2) Individuals selected by the Secretary from
- 24 among employees of the Department of Veterans Af-
- 25 fairs who handle claims for compensation and pen-

1 sion benefits and are recommended to the Secretary
2 by a labor organization for purposes of this section,
3 including at least one of each of the following indi-
4 viduals:

5 (A) A veterans service representative.

6 (B) A rating veterans service representa-
7 tive.

8 (C) A decision review officer.

9 (3) Not fewer than three individuals selected by
10 the Secretary to represent different organizations
11 recognized by the Secretary for the representation of
12 veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United
13 States Code.

14 (4) Individuals selected by the Secretary—

15 (A) that are not employees of the Depart-
16 ment; and

17 (B) that are experts in work credit and
18 work management systems.

19 (c) DUTIES.—The duties of the working group are
20 to assess and develop recommendations for the following:

21 (1) The improvement of the employee work
22 credit and work management systems of the Vet-
23 erans Benefits Administration in an electronic envi-
24 ronment.

1 (2) A scientific, data based methodology to be
2 used in revising the employee work credit system of
3 the Department to improve the quality and quantity
4 of work produced by employees of the Department.

5 (3) The improvement of the resource allocation
6 model of the Veterans Benefits Administration, with
7 a focus on the processing of claims in an electronic
8 environment.

9 (4) A schedule by which the revisions referred
10 to in paragraph (2) will be implemented by the De-
11 partment.

12 (d) REVIEW AND INCORPORATION OF FINDINGS
13 FROM PRIOR STUDY.—In carrying out its duties under
14 subsection (c), the working group shall review the findings
15 and conclusions of previous studies of the employee work
16 credit and work management systems of the Veterans
17 Benefits Administration.

18 (e) ROLE OF THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall
19 consider the recommendations of the working group and
20 implement such recommendations as the Secretary deter-
21 mines appropriate.

22 (f) REPORTS.—

23 (1) INTERIM REPORT.—Not later than 180
24 days after the date of the establishment of the work-

1 ing group, the working group shall submit to Con-
2 gress a report on the progress of the working group.

3 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
4 after the date of the establishment of the working
5 group, the Secretary shall submit to Congress the
6 methodology described in subsection (c)(2) and the
7 schedule described in subsection (c)(4) that the Sec-
8 retary has decided to implement pursuant to sub-
9 section (e).

10 (g) IMPLEMENTATION OF METHODOLOGY AND
11 SCHEDULE.—After submitting the report under sub-
12 section (f), the Secretary shall take such actions as may
13 be necessary to apply the methodology described in sub-
14 section (c)(2) and the schedule described in subsection
15 (c)(4) that the Secretary has decided to implement pursu-
16 ant to subsection (e).

17 **SEC. 622. TASK FORCE ON RETENTION AND TRAINING OF**
18 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
19 **CLAIMS PROCESSORS AND ADJUDICATORS.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
21 Affairs shall establish a task force to assess retention and
22 training of claims processors and adjudicators that are
23 employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs and
24 other departments and agencies of the Federal Govern-
25 ment.

1 (b) COMPOSITION.—The task force shall be composed
2 of the following:

3 (1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs or des-
4 ignee.

5 (2) The Director of the Office of Personnel
6 Management or designee.

7 (3) The Commissioner of Social Security or des-
8 ignee.

9 (4) An individual selected by the Secretary of
10 Veterans Affairs who represents an organization rec-
11 ognized by the Secretary for the representation of
12 veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United
13 States Code.

14 (5) Such other individuals selected by the Sec-
15 retary who represent such other organizations and
16 institutions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

17 (c) DURATION.—The task force established under
18 subsection (a) shall terminate not later than two years
19 after the date on which the task force is established under
20 such subsection.

21 (d) DUTIES.—The duties of the task force are as fol-
22 lows:

23 (1) To identify key skills required by claims
24 processors and adjudicators to perform the duties of
25 claims processors and adjudicators in the various

1 claims processing and adjudication positions
2 throughout the Federal Government.

3 (2) To identify reasons for employee attrition
4 from claims processing positions.

5 (3) To coordinate with educational institutions
6 to develop training and programs of education for
7 members of the Armed Forces to prepare such mem-
8 bers for employment in claims processing and adju-
9 dication positions in the Federal Government.

10 (4) To identify and coordinate offices of the De-
11 partment of Defense and the Department of Vet-
12 erans Affairs located throughout the United States
13 to provide information about, and promotion of,
14 available claims processing positions to members of
15 the Armed Forces transitioning to civilian life and to
16 veterans with disabilities.

17 (5) To establish performance measures to
18 evaluate the effectiveness of the task force.

19 (6) Not later than one year after the date of
20 the establishment of the task force, to develop a
21 Government-wide strategic and operational plan for
22 promoting employment of veterans in claims proc-
23 essing positions in the Federal Government.

24 (7) To establish performance measures to as-
25 sess the plan developed under paragraph (6), to as-

1 sess the implementation of such plan, and to revise
2 such plan as the task force considers appropriate.

3 (e) REPORTS.—

4 (1) SUBMITTAL OF PLAN.—Not later than one
5 year after the date of the establishment of the task
6 force, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit
7 to Congress a report on the plan developed by the
8 task force under subsection (d)(6).

9 (2) ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION.—Not
10 later than 120 days after the termination of the task
11 force, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a re-
12 port that assesses the implementation of the plan
13 developed by the task force under subsection (d)(6).

14 **SEC. 623. REPORTS ON REQUESTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF**
15 **VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR RECORDS OF**
16 **OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

17 (a) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180
19 days thereafter through the date that is 910 days after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
21 Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
22 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-
23 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report
24 on the attempts of the Department of Veterans Affairs
25 to obtain records necessary to adjudicate claims for bene-

1 fits from another department or agency of the Federal
2 Government during the 180-day period ending on the date
3 of such report.

4 (b) ELEMENTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each report shall set forth
6 the following:

7 (A) For the period covered by such report,
8 the following:

9 (i) The total number of requests made
10 by the Department.

11 (ii) The types of records requested.

12 (iii) The number of requests made be-
13 fore the receipt of each record.

14 (iv) The amount of time between the
15 initial request for each record and the re-
16 ceipt of each record.

17 (v) The number of occurrences of the
18 receipt of a record after the adjudication of
19 the claim for which the record was sought.

20 (vi) A description of the efforts of the
21 Secretary to expedite the delivery of
22 records to the Department from other de-
23 partments and agencies of the Federal
24 Government.

1 (B) Such recommendations for legislative
 2 or administrative action as the Secretary con-
 3 siders appropriate in light of such report.

4 (2) PRESENTATION.—The information in a re-
 5 port under clause (i) through (v) of paragraph
 6 (1)(A) shall be set forth separately for each depart-
 7 ment and agency of the Federal Government covered
 8 by such report.

9 **SEC. 624. RECOGNITION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIAN**
 10 **TRIBES IN THE PREPARATION, PRESEN-**
 11 **TATION, AND PROSECUTION OF CLAIMS**
 12 **UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE SEC-**
 13 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

14 Section 5902(a)(1) is amended by inserting “, includ-
 15 ing Indian tribes (as defined in section 4 of the Indian
 16 Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25
 17 U.S.C. 450b))” after “as the Secretary may approve”.

18 **SEC. 625. PROGRAM ON PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL AND**
 19 **TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS IN IMPROVING QUAL-**
 20 **ITY OF CLAIMS FOR DISABILITY COMPENSA-**
 21 **TION SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
 22 **ERANS AFFAIRS.**

23 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Vet-
 24 erans Affairs shall carry out a program to assess the feasi-
 25 bility and advisability of entering into memoranda of un-

1 derstanding with local governments and tribal organiza-
2 tions—

3 (1) to improve the quality of claims submitted
4 to the Secretary for compensation under chapter 11
5 of title 38, United States Code, and pension under
6 chapter 15 of such title; and

7 (2) to provide assistance to veterans who may
8 be eligible for such compensation or pension in sub-
9 mitting such claims.

10 (b) MINIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING TRIBAL
11 ORGANIZATIONS.—In carrying out the program required
12 by subsection (a), the Secretary shall enter into, or main-
13 tain existing, memoranda of understanding with at least—

14 (1) two tribal organizations; and

15 (2) 10 State or local governments.

16 (c) DURATION.—The program shall be carried out
17 during the two-year period beginning on the date of the
18 commencement of the program.

19 (d) REPORT.—

20 (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
21 after the date of the commencement of the program,
22 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Vet-
23 erans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on
24 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a
25 report that includes the following:

1 (A) A description of the implementation
2 and operation of the program, including a de-
3 scription of outreach conducted by the Sec-
4 retary to tribal organizations and State and
5 local governments.

6 (B) An evaluation of the program, includ-
7 ing the total number of memoranda of under-
8 standing entered into or maintained by the Sec-
9 retary.

10 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
11 after the termination of the program, the Secretary
12 shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
13 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
14 fairs of the House of Representatives a report that
15 includes the following:

16 (A) A description of the implementation
17 and operation of the program, including a de-
18 scription of outreach conducted by the Sec-
19 retary to tribal organizations and State and
20 local governments.

21 (B) An evaluation of the program, includ-
22 ing the total number of memoranda of under-
23 standing entered into or maintained by the Sec-
24 retary.

1 (C) The findings and conclusions of the
2 Secretary with respect to the program.

3 (D) Such recommendations for continu-
4 ation or expansion of the program as the Sec-
5 retary considers appropriate.

6 (e) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this sec-
7 tion, the term “tribal organization” has the meaning given
8 that term in section 3765 of title 38, United States Code.

9 **SEC. 626. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS NOTICE OF**
10 **AVERAGE TIMES FOR PROCESSING COM-**
11 **PENSATION CLAIMS.**

12 (a) PUBLIC NOTICE.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
13 fairs shall, to the extent practicable, post the information
14 described in subsection (b)—

15 (1) in physical locations, such as Regional Of-
16 fices or other claims in-take facilities, that the Sec-
17 retary considers appropriate;

18 (2) on the Internet website of the Department;
19 and

20 (3) through other mediums or using such other
21 methods, including collaboration with veterans serv-
22 ice organizations, as the Secretary considers appro-
23 priate.

24 (b) INFORMATION DESCRIBED.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The information described in
2 this subsection is the average processing time of the
3 claims described in paragraph (2).

4 (2) CLAIMS DESCRIBED.—The claims described
5 in this paragraph are each of the following types of
6 claims for benefits under the laws administered by
7 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs:

8 (A) A fully developed claim.

9 (B) A claim that is not fully developed.

10 (3) UPDATE OF INFORMATION.—The informa-
11 tion described in this subsection shall be updated not
12 less frequently than once each fiscal quarter.

13 (c) EXPIRATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—The require-
14 ments of subsection (a) shall expire on December 31,
15 2015.

16 (d) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—
17 In this section, the term “veterans service organization”
18 means an organization recognized by the Secretary of Vet-
19 erans Affairs for the representation of veterans under sec-
20 tion 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

1 **SEC. 627. QUARTERLY REPORTS ON PROGRESS OF DEPART-**
2 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN ELIMI-**
3 **NATING BACKLOG OF CLAIMS FOR COM-**
4 **PENSATION THAT HAVE NOT BEEN ADJU-**
5 **DICATED.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently
8 than quarterly thereafter through calendar year 2015, the
9 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
10 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
11 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representa-
12 tives a report on the backlog of claims filed with the De-
13 partment of Veterans Affairs for compensation that have
14 not been adjudicated by the Department.

15 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under sub-
16 section (a) shall include the following:

17 (1) For each month through calendar year
18 2015, a projection of the following:

19 (A) The number of claims completed.

20 (B) The number of claims received.

21 (C) The number of claims on backlog at
22 the end of the month.

23 (D) The number of claims pending at the
24 end of the month.

25 (E) The number of appeals pending at the
26 end of the month.

1 (F) A description of the status of the im-
2 plementation of initiatives carried out by the
3 Secretary to address the backlog, including the
4 expected impact of those initiatives on accuracy
5 and timeliness of adjudication of claims.

6 (2) For each quarter through calendar year
7 2015, a projection of the average accuracy of dis-
8 ability determinations for compensation claims that
9 require a disability rating (or disability decision).

10 (3) For each month during the most recently
11 completed quarter, the following:

12 (A) The number of claims completed.

13 (B) The number of claims received.

14 (C) The number of claims on backlog at
15 the end of the month.

16 (D) The number of claims pending at the
17 end of the month.

18 (E) The number of appeals pending at the
19 end of the month.

20 (F) A description of the status of the im-
21 plementation of initiatives carried out by the
22 Secretary to address the backlog, including the
23 impact of those initiatives on accuracy and
24 timeliness of adjudication of claims.

1 (G) An assessment of the accuracy of dis-
2 ability determinations for compensation claims
3 that require a disability rating (or disability de-
4 cision).

5 (4) For the most recently completed quarter—

6 (A) the number of cases physically received
7 at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and dock-
8 eted;

9 (B) the number of cases pending at the
10 Board of Veterans' Appeals at the end of the
11 quarter;

12 (C) the number of cases physically at the
13 Board of Veterans' Appeals at the end of the
14 quarter;

15 (D) the number of notices of disagreement
16 and appeals filed to the agency of original juris-
17 diction referred to in section 7105(b)(1) of title
18 38, United States Code; and

19 (E) the number of decisions made by the
20 Board of Veterans' Appeals and the percentage
21 of such decisions that were allowed, remanded,
22 denied, or otherwise disposed of.

23 (c) AVAILABILITY TO PUBLIC.—The Secretary shall
24 make each report submitted under subsection (a) available
25 to the public.

1 (d) ON BACKLOG AND PENDING DEFINED.—In this
 2 section, the terms “on backlog” and “pending”, with re-
 3 spect to a claim for compensation received by the Sec-
 4 retary, shall have the meaning specified by the Secretary
 5 for purposes of this section.

6 **SEC. 628. REPORTS ON USE OF EXISTING AUTHORITIES TO**
 7 **EXPEDITE BENEFITS DECISIONS.**

8 (a) REPORT ON CURRENT USE OF TEMPORARY, IN-
 9 TERMEDIATE, AND PROVISIONAL RATING DECISIONS.—

10 (1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180
 11 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
 12 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the
 13 Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and
 14 the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of
 15 Representatives a report on the use of temporary,
 16 intermediate, and provisional rating decisions to ex-
 17 pedite the benefits decisions of the Department of
 18 Veterans Affairs.

19 (2) REPORT ELEMENTS.—The report required
 20 by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

21 (A) With respect to temporary and inter-
 22 mediate rating decisions, the following:

23 (i) The number of temporary and in-
 24 termediate rating decisions issued by the

1 Department during each of fiscal years
2 2011, 2012, and 2013.

3 (ii) A description of any reasons or
4 obstacles that prevent use of existing au-
5 thorities to issue temporary or inter-
6 mediate rating decisions.

7 (iii) A description of the Quick Pay
8 Disability initiative, including the rationale
9 for not expanding the initiative beyond
10 pilot program status.

11 (B) With respect to provisional rating deci-
12 sions, the following:

13 (i) The number of provisional rating
14 decisions issued by the Department during
15 the oldest claims first initiative.

16 (ii) Of the provisional rating decisions
17 issued during the oldest claims first initia-
18 tive—

19 (I) the number of such decisions
20 that involved a claim granted;

21 (II) the number of such decisions
22 that involved a claim denied; and

23 (III) the number of such deci-
24 sions that involved a claim granted in
25 part or a claim denied in part.

1 (iii) A statement of the most common
2 reasons claims were not granted earlier
3 under the oldest claims first initiative when
4 there was sufficient evidence to render an
5 award of benefits in the provisional rating
6 decision.

7 (iv) The average number of days to
8 issue a provisional rating decision under
9 the oldest claims first initiative.

10 (v) Of the total number of decisions
11 that were completed under the oldest
12 claims first initiative—

13 (I) the number that were Cat-
14 egory 1 claims and received a final
15 rating decision; and

16 (II) the number that were Cat-
17 egory 2 claims and received a provi-
18 sional rating decision.

19 (vi) The number of rating decisions
20 issued during the oldest claims first imita-
21 tive that involved a brokered claim, set
22 forth by number of such claims by Re-
23 gional Office of the Department, includ-
24 ing—

1 (I) the number of brokered
2 claims received by each Regional Of-
3 fice; and

4 (II) the number of brokered
5 claims issued by each Regional Office.

6 (vii) The number of provisional rating
7 decisions issued during the oldest claims
8 first initiative with respect to which the
9 veteran requested that the provisional deci-
10 sion become final in order to appeal.

11 (viii) The number of provisional rating
12 decisions issued during the oldest claims
13 first initiative with respect to which the
14 veteran requested an appeal after the expi-
15 ration of the 1-year period beginning on
16 the date of notification of the provisional
17 rating decision.

18 (ix) An assessment of the accuracy of
19 provisional rating decisions issued during
20 the oldest claims first initiative, set forth
21 by Category 1 claims and Category 2
22 claims.

23 (C) Such other matters as the Secretary
24 considers appropriate for purposes of the re-
25 port.

1 (3) SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION.—If the Sec-
2 retary continues to obtain information on rating de-
3 cisions under clauses (vii) and (viii) of paragraph
4 (2)(B) after the date of the submittal of the report
5 required by paragraph (1), the Secretary shall sub-
6 mit to the committees of Congress referred to in
7 paragraph (1) a report on such information that
8 supplements the information on such clauses in the
9 report under paragraph (1) when the Secretary com-
10 pletes accumulation of such information.

11 (b) PLAN FOR INCREASE IN USE OF TEMPORARY OR
12 INTERMEDIATE RATING DECISIONS.—

13 (1) REPORT ON PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later
14 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
15 this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
16 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the
17 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
18 Representatives a report setting forth a plan to in-
19 crease the use of temporary or intermediate rating
20 decisions to expedite benefit decisions of the Depart-
21 ment when the record contains sufficient evidence to
22 grant any claim at issue, including service connec-
23 tion.

24 (2) PLAN ELEMENTS.—The plan required
25 under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

1 (A) Mechanisms to overcome obstacles to
2 the use of temporary or intermediate rating de-
3 cisions, including mechanisms (such as up-
4 grades) to assure the ability of the Veterans
5 Benefits Management System to facilitate the
6 issuance of temporary or intermediate rating
7 decisions.

8 (B) Mechanisms to ensure that appropriate
9 claimant populations, such as claimants who file
10 complex or multi-issue disability compensation
11 claims, benefit from the availability of tem-
12 porary or intermediate rating decisions.

13 (C) Mechanisms to provide for the use of
14 temporary or intermediate rating decisions, in-
15 cluding mechanisms to resolve whether a re-
16 quest by a claimant or claimant representative
17 should trigger use of a temporary or inter-
18 mediate rating decision depending on the cir-
19 cumstances of the claimant.

20 (D) Mechanisms to prevent the use of tem-
21 porary or intermediate rating decisions in lieu
22 of a final rating decision when a final rating de-
23 cision could be made with little or no additional
24 claim development.

1 (E) Such recommendations for legislative
2 or administrative action as the Secretary con-
3 siders appropriate to increase the use of tem-
4 porary or intermediate rating decisions to expe-
5 dite benefit decisions of the Department.

6 **SEC. 629. REPORTS ON DEPARTMENT DISABILITY MEDICAL**
7 **EXAMINATIONS AND PREVENTION OF UNNEC-**
8 **ESSARY MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.**

9 (a) REPORT ON DISABILITY MEDICAL EXAMINA-
10 TIONS FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-
11 FAIRS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
14 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
15 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the
16 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
17 Representatives a report on the furnishing of general
18 medical and specialty medical examinations by the
19 Department of Veterans Affairs for purposes of ad-
20 judicating claims for benefits under laws adminis-
21 tered by the Secretary.

22 (2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under
23 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

24 (A) The number of general medical exami-
25 nations furnished by the Department during the

1 period of fiscal years 2009 through 2012 for
2 purposes of adjudicating claims for benefits
3 under laws administered by the Secretary.

4 (B) The number of general medical exami-
5 nations furnished by the Department during the
6 period of fiscal years 2009 through 2012 for
7 purposes of adjudicating a claim in which a
8 comprehensive joint examination was conducted,
9 but for which no disability relating to a joint,
10 bone, or muscle had been asserted as an issue
11 in the claim.

12 (C) The number of specialty medical ex-
13 aminations furnished by the Department during
14 the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2012
15 for purposes of adjudicating a claim.

16 (D) The number of specialty medical ex-
17 aminations furnished by the Department during
18 the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2012
19 for purposes of adjudicating a claim in which
20 one or more joint examinations were conducted.

21 (E) A summary with citations to any med-
22 ical and scientific studies that provide a basis
23 for determining that three repetitions is ade-
24 quate to determine the effect of repetitive use
25 on functional impairments.

1 (F) The names of all examination reports,
2 including general medical examinations and
3 Disability Benefits Questionnaires, used for
4 evaluation of compensation and pension dis-
5 ability claims which require measurement of re-
6 peated ranges of motion testing and the number
7 of examinations requiring such measurements
8 which were conducted in fiscal year 2012.

9 (G) The average amount of time taken by
10 an individual conducting a medical examination
11 to perform the three repetitions of movement of
12 each joint.

13 (H) A discussion of whether there are
14 more efficient and effective scientifically reliable
15 methods of testing for functional loss on repet-
16 itive use of an extremity other than the three
17 time repetition currently used by the Depart-
18 ment.

19 (I) Recommendations as to the continu-
20 ation of the practice of measuring functional
21 impairment by using three repetitions of move-
22 ment of each joint during the examination as a
23 criteria for evaluating the effect of repetitive
24 motion on functional impairment with sup-
25 porting rationale.

1 (b) REPORT AND PLAN TO PREVENT THE ORDERING
2 OF UNNECESSARY MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
5 retary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans'
6 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-
7 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a re-
8 port on the efforts of the Secretary in reducing the
9 necessity for in-person disability examinations and
10 other efforts to comply with the provisions of section
11 5125 of title 38, United States Code.

12 (2) CONTENTS.—The report required by para-
13 graph (1) shall include the following:

14 (A) Criteria used by the Secretary to de-
15 termine if a claim is eligible for the Acceptable
16 Clinical Evidence initiative.

17 (B) The number of claims determined to
18 be eligible for the Acceptable Clinical Evidence
19 initiative during the period beginning on the
20 date of the initiation of the initiative and end-
21 ing on the date of the enactment of this Act,
22 disaggregated—

23 (i) by fiscal year; and

24 (ii) by claims determined eligible
25 based in whole or in part on medical evi-

1 dence provided by a private health care
2 provider.

3 (C) The total number of claims determined
4 to be eligible for the Acceptable Clinical Evi-
5 dence initiative that required an employee of
6 the Department to supplement the evidence
7 with information obtained during a telephone
8 interview with a claimant or health care pro-
9 vider.

10 (D) Information on any other initiatives or
11 efforts, including disability benefits question-
12 naires, of the Department to further encourage
13 the use of medical evidence provided by a pri-
14 vate health care provider and reliance upon re-
15 ports of a medical examination administered by
16 a private physician if the report is sufficiently
17 complete to be adequate for the purposes of ad-
18 judicating a claim.

19 (E) A plan—

20 (i) to measure, track, and prevent the
21 ordering of unnecessary medical examina-
22 tions when the provision by a claimant of
23 a medical examination administered by a
24 private physician in support of a claim for
25 benefits under chapter 11 or 15 of title 38,

1 United States Code, is adequate for the
2 purpose of making a decision on that
3 claim; and

4 (ii) that includes the actions the Sec-
5 retary will take to eliminate any request by
6 the Department for a medical examination
7 in the case of a claim for benefits under
8 chapter 11 or 15 of such title in support
9 of which a claimant submits medical evi-
10 dence or a medical opinion provided by a
11 private health care provider that is com-
12 petent, credible, probative, and otherwise
13 adequate for purposes of making a decision
14 on that claim.

15 **Subtitle D—Board of Veterans’ Ap-**
16 **peals and Court of Appeals for**
17 **Veterans Claims**

18 **SEC. 631. TREATMENT OF CERTAIN MISFILED DOCUMENTS**

19 **AS A NOTICE OF APPEAL TO THE COURT OF**
20 **APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS.**

21 Section 7266 is amended by adding at the end the
22 following new subsection:

23 “(e)(1) If a person adversely affected by a final deci-
24 sion of the Board, who has not filed a notice of appeal
25 with the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans

1 Claims under subsection (a), misfiles a document with the
 2 Board or the agency of original jurisdiction referred to in
 3 section 7105(b)(1) of this title that expresses disagree-
 4 ment with such decision and a clear intent to seek review
 5 of such decision by the United States Court of Appeals
 6 for Veterans Claims, not later than 120 days after the
 7 date of such decision, such document shall be treated as
 8 timely filed under subsection (a).

9 “(2) The treatment of misfiled documents under
 10 paragraph (1) does not limit equitable relief that may be
 11 otherwise available to a person described in that para-
 12 graph.”.

13 **SEC. 632. DETERMINATION OF MANNER OF APPEARANCE**
 14 **FOR HEARINGS BEFORE BOARD OF VET-**
 15 **ERANS’ APPEALS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7107 is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “in sub-
 18 section (f)” and inserting “in subsection (g)”;

19 (2) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
 20 section (g); and

21 (3) by striking subsections (d) and (e) and in-
 22 serting the following new subsections:

23 “(d)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), a hear-
 24 ing before the Board shall be conducted through picture
 25 and voice transmission, by electronic or other means, in

1 such a manner that the appellant is not present in the
2 same location as the members of the Board during the
3 hearing.

4 “(2)(A) A hearing before the Board shall be con-
5 ducted in person upon the request of an appellant.

6 “(B) In the absence of a request under subparagraph
7 (A), a hearing before the Board may also be conducted
8 in person as the Board considers appropriate.

9 “(e)(1) In a case in which a hearing before the Board
10 is to be held as described in subsection (d)(1), the Sec-
11 retary shall provide suitable facilities and equipment to the
12 Board or other components of the Department to enable
13 an appellant located at an appropriate facility within the
14 area served by a regional office to participate as so de-
15 scribed.

16 “(2) Any hearing conducted as described in sub-
17 section (d)(1) shall be conducted in the same manner as,
18 and shall be considered the equivalent of, a personal hear-
19 ing.

20 “(f)(1) In a case in which a hearing before the Board
21 is to be held as described in subsection (d)(2), the appel-
22 lant may request that the hearing be held at the principal
23 location of the Board or at a facility of the Department
24 located within the area served by a regional office of the
25 Department.

1 “(2) A hearing to be held within an area served by
2 a regional office of the Department shall (except as pro-
3 vided in paragraph (3)) be scheduled to be held in accord-
4 ance with the place of the case on the docket under sub-
5 section (a) relative to other cases on the docket for which
6 hearings are scheduled to be held within that area.

7 “(3) A hearing to be held within an area served by
8 a regional office of the Department may, for cause shown,
9 be advanced on motion for an earlier hearing. Any such
10 motion shall set forth succinctly the grounds upon which
11 the motion is based. Such a motion may be granted only—

12 “(A) if the case involves interpretation of law of
13 general application affecting other claims;

14 “(B) if the appellant is seriously ill or is under
15 severe financial hardship; or

16 “(C) for other sufficient cause shown.”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
18 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to cases received
19 by the Board of Veterans’ Appeals pursuant to notices of
20 disagreement submitted on or after the date of the enact-
21 ment of this Act.

1 **TITLE VII—OUTREACH MATTERS**

2 **SEC. 701. PROGRAM TO INCREASE COORDINATION OF OUT-**
3 **REACH EFFORTS BETWEEN THE DEPART-**
4 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND FEDERAL,**
5 **STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND NON-**
6 **PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.**

7 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Vet-
8 erans Affairs shall carry out a program to assess the feasi-
9 bility and advisability of using State and local government
10 agencies and nonprofit organizations—

11 (1) to increase awareness of veterans regarding
12 benefits and services for veterans; and

13 (2) to improve coordination of outreach activi-
14 ties regarding such benefits and services between the
15 Secretary and Federal, State, and local government
16 and nonprofit providers of health care and benefit
17 services for veterans.

18 (b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the
19 program for a two-year period.

20 (c) GRANTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
22 out the program through the competitive award of
23 grants to State and local government agencies and
24 nonprofit organizations—

1 (A) to increase the awareness of veterans
2 regarding benefits and services for veterans;
3 and

4 (B) to improve coordination of outreach
5 activities regarding such benefits and services
6 between the Secretary and Federal, State, and
7 local government and nonprofit providers of
8 health care and benefit services for veterans.

9 (2) APPLICATION.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—A State or local gov-
11 ernment agency or nonprofit organization seek-
12 ing a grant under the program shall submit to
13 the Secretary an application therefor in such
14 form and in such manner as the Secretary con-
15 siderers appropriate.

16 (B) ELEMENTS.—Each application sub-
17 mitted under subparagraph (A) shall include
18 the following:

19 (i) A description of the consultations,
20 if any, with the Department of Veterans
21 Affairs in the development of any proposal
22 under the application.

23 (ii) A description of the project for
24 which the applicant is seeking a grant
25 under the program, including a plan to co-

1 ordinate under the program, to the great-
2 est extent possible, the outreach activities
3 of Federal, State, and local government
4 agencies that provide health care, benefits,
5 and services for veterans and nonprofit or-
6 ganizations that provide such care, bene-
7 fits, and services to enhance the awareness
8 and availability of such care, benefits, and
9 services.

10 (iii) An agreement to report to the
11 Secretary standardized data and other per-
12 formance measures necessary for the Sec-
13 retary to evaluate the program and to fa-
14 cilitate evaluation of projects for which
15 grants are awarded under the program.

16 (iv) Such other information as the
17 Secretary may require.

18 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants
20 under the program to carry out projects, the
21 Secretary shall consider—

22 (i) where the projects will be carried
23 out and which populations are targeted;
24 and

1 (ii) the likelihood that each potential
2 grantee will successfully carry out the
3 grant proposal.

4 (B) CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING LOCA-
5 TION AND TARGET POPULATION.—In taking the
6 matters specified in subparagraph (A)(ii) into
7 consideration, the Secretary shall consider in
8 particular the advisability of awarding grants
9 for projects—

10 (i) carried out in areas with popu-
11 lations that have a high proportion of vet-
12 eran representation;

13 (ii) carried out in a variety of geo-
14 graphic areas, including urban, rural, and
15 highly rural areas; and

16 (iii) that target a variety of veteran
17 populations, including racial and ethnic mi-
18 norities, low-income populations, and older
19 populations.

20 (4) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall estab-
21 lish appropriate uses of grant amounts received
22 under the program.

23 (5) OVERSIGHT OF USE OF FUNDS.—The Sec-
24 retary shall establish appropriate mechanisms for
25 oversight of the use of grant amounts received under

1 the program, including the evidence grantees must
2 submit to demonstrate use of grant amounts and
3 procedures for the recovery of grant amounts that
4 were improperly used.

5 (6) LIMITATION.—In a fiscal year, not more
6 than 20 percent of all grant amounts awarded in
7 that fiscal year may be awarded to a single State en-
8 tity.

9 (d) STATE MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Sec-
10 retary may not make a grant to a State under subsection
11 (c) unless that State agrees that, with respect to the costs
12 to be incurred by the State in carrying out the program
13 or projects for which the grant was awarded, the State
14 will make available (directly or through donations from
15 public or private entities) non-Federal contributions in an
16 amount equal to 50 percent of Federal funds provided
17 under the grant.

18 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 hereby authorized to be appropriated to carry out this sec-
20 tion the following:

21 (1) \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2015.

22 (2) \$2,500,000 for fiscal year 2016.

23 (f) ANNUAL REPORT.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days
25 after the completion of the first calendar year begin-

1 ning after the date of the commencement of the pro-
2 gram, and not less frequently than once every year
3 thereafter for the duration of the program, the Sec-
4 retary shall submit to Congress a report evaluating
5 the program and the projects supported by grants
6 awarded under the program.

7 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
8 graph (1) shall include the following:

9 (A) The findings and conclusions of the
10 Secretary with respect to the program.

11 (B) An assessment of the benefit to vet-
12 erans of the program.

13 (C) The performance measures used by the
14 Secretary for purposes of the program and data
15 showing the performance of grantees under the
16 program under such measures.

17 (D) The recommendations of the Secretary
18 as to the feasibility and advisability of con-
19 tinuing or expanding or modifying the program.

20 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
21 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 702. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN SEC-**
 2 **RETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND STATES**
 3 **ON OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 is amended by insert-
 5 ing after section 6306 the following new section:

6 **“§ 6306A. Cooperative agreements with States**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into co-
 8 operative agreements and arrangements with various
 9 State agencies and State departments to carry out this
 10 chapter and to otherwise carry out, coordinate, improve,
 11 or enhance outreach activities of the Department and the
 12 States.

13 “(b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall include in each
 14 report submitted under section 6308 of this title a descrip-
 15 tion of the agreements and arrangements entered into by
 16 the Secretary under subsection (a).”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 18 at the beginning of chapter 63 is amended by inserting
 19 after the item relating to section 6306 the following new
 20 item:

“6306A. Cooperative agreements with States.”.

21 **SEC. 703. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON OUTREACH ACTIVI-**
 22 **TIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
 23 **FAIRS.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
 25 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of

1 Veterans Affairs shall establish an advisory committee on
2 outreach activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

3 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The advisory committee shall be
4 composed of individuals selected by the Secretary from
5 among the following:

6 (1) To the maximum extent practicable, individ-
7 uals who are eminent in their respective fields of
8 public relations.

9 (2) Representatives of organizations with offices
10 that focus on communications and distribute mes-
11 sages through major media news outlets and social
12 media.

13 (3) To the maximum extent practicable, individ-
14 uals with experience communicating financial results
15 and business strategy for purposes of shaping a con-
16 fident brand image.

17 (4) To the maximum extent practicable, individ-
18 uals with experience with consumer and lifestyle im-
19 aging and creating publicity for a particular product
20 or service.

21 (5) To the maximum extent practicable, vet-
22 erans who have experience in press and public rela-
23 tions.

1 (c) DUTIES.—The advisory committee shall advise
2 the Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental
3 Affairs—

4 (1) to ensure that the Department of Veterans
5 Affairs is strategically and effectively—

6 (A) engaging the public and Department
7 stakeholders to increase awareness nationally
8 regarding all benefits and services furnished by
9 the Department;

10 (B) explaining new or changing policies of
11 the Department;

12 (C) improving the image and reputation of
13 the Department; and

14 (D) coordinating and collaborating with
15 national community-based organizations, non-
16 profits, and State and local government agen-
17 cies;

18 (2) to assist the Secretary in conducting such
19 other press or public relations activities relating to
20 outreach activities of the Department as the Sec-
21 retary and the Assistant Secretary for Public and
22 Intergovernmental Affairs consider appropriate; and

23 (3) to ensure coordination and collaboration on
24 efforts within the Department for the development,

1 implementation, and review of local outreach with
2 respect to benefits that include the following:

3 (A) Compensation and pension benefits.

4 (B) Insurance benefits.

5 (C) Burial and memorial benefits.

6 (D) Education benefits.

7 (E) Vocational rehabilitation and employ-
8 ment benefits.

9 (F) Readjustment counseling benefits.

10 (G) Loan guarantee benefits.

11 (H) Such other benefits as the Secretary
12 considers appropriate.

13 (d) LOCATION OF MEETINGS.—Each meeting of the
14 advisory committee shall take place at a location that is
15 property of the Department and shall, to the maximum
16 extent practicable, use teleconference technology.

17 (e) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult
18 with and seek the advice of the advisory committee not
19 less frequently than quarterly on matters relating to the
20 duties of the advisory committee under subsection (c).

21 (f) REPORTS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than
23 once every 90 days for the first year and semiannu-
24 ally thereafter, the advisory committee shall submit

1 to Congress and to the Secretary a report on out-
 2 reach activities of the Department.

3 (2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Each report sub-
 4 mitted under paragraph (1) shall include such rec-
 5 ommendations for legislative and administrative ac-
 6 tion as the advisory committee considers appropriate
 7 to improve the press and public relations of the De-
 8 partment relating to outreach.

9 (g) TERMINATION.—The advisory committee shall
 10 terminate on October 1, 2015, and the requirements and
 11 authorities under this section shall terminate on such date.

12 (h) OUTREACH DEFINED.—In this section, the term
 13 “outreach” has the meaning given the term in section
 14 6301 of title 38, United States Code.

15 **SEC. 704. ADVISORY BOARDS ON OUTREACH ACTIVITIES OF**
 16 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS RELAT-**
 17 **ING TO HEALTH CARE.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each entity described in
 20 paragraph (2), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
 21 shall, acting through the director of that entity, es-
 22 tablish not later than 180 days after the effective
 23 date specified in subsection (h) an advisory board at
 24 that entity on matters relating to outreach activities

1 of the Department of Veterans Affairs at that enti-
2 ty.

3 (2) ENTITY DESCRIBED.—An entity described
4 in this paragraph is—

5 (A) a healthcare system of the Depart-
6 ment; or

7 (B) a Veterans Integrated System Net-
8 work, if such Veterans Integrated System Net-
9 work does not contain a healthcare system.

10 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each advisory board estab-
12 lished under subsection (a)(1) shall be, to the max-
13 imum extent practicable, composed of individuals se-
14 lected by the Secretary from among the following:

15 (A) Individuals who are eminent in their
16 respective fields of public relations.

17 (B) Representatives of organizations with
18 offices that focus on communications and dis-
19 tribute messages through major media news
20 outlets and social media.

21 (C) Individuals with experience commu-
22 nicating financial results and business strategy
23 for purposes of shaping a confident brand
24 image.

1 (D) Individuals with experience with con-
2 sumer and lifestyle imaging and creating pub-
3 licity for a particular product or service.

4 (E) Employees of the Department who are
5 involved in press and public relations strategy
6 for an entity described in subsection (a)(2).

7 (F) To the maximum extent practicable,
8 veterans who have experience in press and pub-
9 lic relations.

10 (2) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—The partici-
11 pation of an individual selected under paragraph (1)
12 shall be at the election of the individual.

13 (c) DUTIES.—Each advisory board established under
14 subsection (a)(1) at an entity described in subsection
15 (a)(2) shall advise the Assistant Secretary for Public and
16 Intergovernmental Affairs—

17 (1) to ensure that the Department of Veterans
18 Affairs is strategically and effectively—

19 (A) engaging the public and Department
20 stakeholders to increase awareness nationally
21 regarding benefits and services furnished by the
22 Department;

23 (B) explaining new or changing policies of
24 the Department;

1 (C) improving the image and reputation of
2 the Department;

3 (D) coordinating and collaborating with
4 national community-based organizations, non-
5 profits, and State and local government agen-
6 cies; and

7 (E) coordinating and collaborating on ef-
8 forts within the Department for the develop-
9 ment, implementation, and review of local out-
10 reach with respect to benefits that include—

11 (i) compensation and pension benefits;

12 (ii) insurance benefits;

13 (iii) burial and memorial benefits;

14 (iv) education benefits;

15 (v) vocational rehabilitation and em-
16 ployment benefits;

17 (vi) readjustment counseling benefits;

18 (vii) loan guarantee benefits; and

19 (viii) such other benefits as the Sec-
20 retary considers appropriate; and

21 (2) to assist the director of that entity in con-
22 ducting such other press or public relations activities
23 relating to outreach activities of the Department as
24 that advisory board considers appropriate.

25 (d) MEETING LOCATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—If teleconference technology
2 is not used, meetings of each advisory board estab-
3 lished under subsection (a)(1) shall be held at a lo-
4 cation that is property of the Department.

5 (2) TELECONFERENCE TECHNOLOGY.—Each
6 advisory board shall use, to the maximum extent
7 practicable, teleconference technology.

8 (e) CONSULTATION.—Each director of an entity de-
9 scribed in subsection (a)(2) shall consult with and seek
10 the advice of the advisory board established at such entity
11 not less frequently than once every two months on matters
12 relating to the duties of the advisory board under sub-
13 section (c).

14 (f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not less frequently than
15 each year, each advisory board established under sub-
16 section (a)(1) shall submit to the Secretary a report with
17 such information as may be beneficial to the Secretary in
18 preparing the reports required by section 6308 of title 38,
19 United States Code.

20 (g) TERMINATION.—Each advisory board established
21 under subsection (a)(1) and the authorities and require-
22 ments of this section shall terminate three years after the
23 effective date specified in subsection (h).

1 (h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
2 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 705. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR PERIODIC**
5 **REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON OUTREACH AC-**
6 **TIVITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
7 **FAIRS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6308 is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “even-num-
10 bered”; and

11 (2) in subsection (b)—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “bien-
13 nial”;

14 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “for leg-
15 islative and administrative action” after “Rec-
16 ommendations”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following new
18 paragraph:

19 “(3) Recommendations that such administrative
20 actions as may be taken—

21 “(A) to maximize resources for outreach
22 activities of the Department; and

23 “(B) to focus outreach efforts on activities
24 that are proven to be more effective.”.

25 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

1 (1) SECTION HEADING.—The heading for sec-
 2 tion 6308 is amended by striking “**Biennial**” and
 3 inserting “**Annual**”.

4 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
 5 at the beginning of chapter 63 is amended by strik-
 6 ing the item relating to section 6308 and inserting
 7 the following new item:

“6308. Annual report to Congress.”.

8 **SEC. 706. BUDGET TRANSPARENCY FOR OUTREACH ACTIVI-**
 9 **TIES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
 10 **FAIRS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 is amended by insert-
 12 ing after section 6308 the following new section:

13 **“§ 6309. Budget transparency**

14 “(a) BUDGET REQUIREMENTS.—In the budget jus-
 15 tification materials submitted to Congress in support of
 16 the Department budget for a fiscal year (as submitted
 17 with the budget of the President under section 1105(a)
 18 of title 31), the Secretary shall include a separate state-
 19 ment of the amount requested for such fiscal year for ac-
 20 tivities of the Office of Public and Intergovernmental Af-
 21 fairs as follows:

22 “(1) For outreach activities of the Department
 23 in aggregate.

24 “(2) For outreach activities of each element of
 25 the Department specified in subsection (b)(1).

1 “(b) PROCEDURES FOR EFFECTIVE COORDINATION
2 AND COLLABORATION.—(1) Not later than 180 days after
3 the date of the enactment of the Comprehensive Veterans
4 Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Res-
5 toration Act of 2014, the Secretary shall establish and
6 maintain procedures for the Office of Public and Intergov-
7 ernmental Affairs to ensure the effective coordination and
8 collaboration of outreach activities of the Department be-
9 tween and among the following:

10 “(A) Office of the Secretary.

11 “(B) Veterans Health Administration.

12 “(C) Veterans Benefits Administration.

13 “(D) National Cemetery Administration.

14 “(2) The Secretary shall—

15 “(A) beginning after the date on which the Sec-
16 retary establishes procedures under paragraph (1),
17 not less frequently than once every two years con-
18 duct a review of the procedures established and
19 maintained under paragraph (1) to ensure that such
20 procedures meet the requirements of such para-
21 graph;

22 “(B) make such modifications to such proce-
23 dures as the Secretary considers appropriate based
24 upon reviews conducted under subparagraph (A) in
25 order to better meet such requirements; and

1 “(C) not later than 45 days after completing a
 2 review under subparagraph (A), submit to Congress
 3 a report on the findings of such review.”.

4 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 5 at the beginning of chapter 63 is amended by inserting
 6 after the item relating to section 6308 the following new
 7 item:

“6309. Budget transparency.”.

8 **TITLE VIII—ENHANCEMENT OF**
 9 **RIGHTS UNDER**
 10 **SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RE-**
 11 **LIEF ACT**

12 **SEC. 801. MODIFICATION OF PERIOD DETERMINING WHICH**
 13 **ACTIONS ARE COVERED UNDER STAY OF**
 14 **PROCEEDINGS AND ADJUSTMENT OF OBLI-**
 15 **GATION PROTECTIONS CONCERNING MORT-**
 16 **GAGES AND TRUST DEEDS OF MEMBERS OF**
 17 **UNIFORMED SERVICES.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(b) of the
 19 Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 533(b))
 20 is amended by striking “filed” and inserting “pending”.

21 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 710(d) of
 22 the Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp
 23 Lejeune Families Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–154; 126
 24 Stat. 1208) is amended—

1 (1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the
 2 following new paragraph (1):

3 “(1) SUNSET AND REVIVAL.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (b) and
 5 (c) of section 303 of the Servicemembers Civil
 6 Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 533), as amended
 7 by subsections (a) and (b) of this section, are
 8 amended by striking ‘within one year’ each
 9 place it appears and inserting ‘within 90 days’.

10 “(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments
 11 made by subparagraph (A) shall take effect on
 12 January 1, 2015.”; and

13 (2) by striking paragraph (3).

14 **SEC. 802. PROTECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF UNIFORMED**
 15 **SERVICES REGARDING PROFESSIONAL LI-**
 16 **CENSES.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Servicemembers
 18 Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 701 et seq.) is amended
 19 by adding at the end the following new section:

20 **“SEC. 707. PROFESSIONAL LICENSES.**

21 “(a) EXPIRATION DURING PERIOD IN WHICH
 22 SERVICEMEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR HOSTILE FIRE OR
 23 IMMINENT DANGER SPECIAL PAY.—If a license issued by
 24 a State or local licensing authority to a servicemember
 25 would otherwise expire during a period in which such serv-

1 icemember is eligible for hostile fire or imminent danger
 2 special pay under section 310 of title 37, United States
 3 Code, such State or local licensing authority shall delay
 4 the expiration of such license until not earlier than the
 5 date that is 180 days after the date on which such period
 6 of eligibility ends.

7 “(b) CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS DUR-
 8 ING PERIOD IN WHICH SERVICEMEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE
 9 FOR HOSTILE FIRE OR IMMINENT DANGER SPECIAL
 10 PAY.—If a State or local licensing authority otherwise re-
 11 quires a servicemember to meet any continuing education
 12 requirements to maintain a license for a trade or profes-
 13 sion during a period in which such servicemember is eligi-
 14 ble for hostile fire or imminent danger special pay under
 15 section 310 of title 37, United States Code, such State
 16 or local licensing authority shall delay such continuing
 17 education requirement until not earlier than the date that
 18 is 180 days after the date on which such period of eligi-
 19 bility ends.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
 21 in section 1(b) of such Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501(b)) is
 22 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
 23 706 the following new item:

“Sec. 707. Professional licenses and certifications.”.

1 **SEC. 803. PROHIBITION ON DENIAL OF CREDIT BECAUSE**
2 **OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PROTECTION.**

3 Section 108 of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act
4 (50 U.S.C. App. 518) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “Application by” and inserting
6 the following:

7 “(a) APPLICATION OR RECEIPT.—Application by”;
8 and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
10 section:

11 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the protec-
13 tions under subsection (a), an individual who is enti-
14 tled to any right or protection provided under this
15 Act may not be denied or refused credit or be sub-
16 ject to any other action described under paragraphs
17 (1) through (6) of subsection (a) solely by reason of
18 such entitlement.

19 “(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sub-
20 section shall be construed to prohibit a lender from
21 considering all relevant factors, other than the enti-
22 tlement of an individual to a right or protection pro-
23 vided under this Act, in making a determination as
24 to whether it is appropriate to extend credit.”.

1 **SEC. 804. INTEREST RATE LIMITATION ON DEBT ENTERED**
2 **INTO DURING MILITARY SERVICE TO CON-**
3 **SOLIDATE OR REFINANCE STUDENT LOANS**
4 **INCURRED BEFORE MILITARY SERVICE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 207 of
6 the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 527)
7 is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “ON DEBT
9 INCURRED BEFORE SERVICE” after “LIMITATION TO
10 6 PERCENT”;

11 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
12 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

13 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
14 lowing new paragraph (2):

15 “(2) LIMITATION TO 6 PERCENT ON DEBT IN-
16 CURRED DURING SERVICE TO CONSOLIDATE OR RE-
17 FINANCE STUDENT LOANS INCURRED BEFORE SERV-
18 ICE.—An obligation or liability bearing interest at a
19 rate in excess of 6 percent per year that is incurred
20 by a servicemember, or the servicemember and the
21 servicemember’s spouse jointly, during military serv-
22 ice to consolidate or refinance one or more student
23 loans incurred by the servicemember before such
24 military service shall not bear an interest at a rate
25 in excess of 6 percent during the period of military
26 service.”;

1 (4) in paragraph (3), as redesignated by para-
2 graph (2) of this subsection, by inserting “or (2)”
3 after “paragraph (1)”; and

4 (5) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by
5 striking “paragraph (2)” and inserting “paragraph
6 (3)”.

7 (b) IMPLEMENTATION OF LIMITATION.—Subsection
8 (b) of such section is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “the interest
10 rate limitation in subsection (a)” and inserting “an
11 interest rate limitation in paragraph (1) or (2) of
12 subsection (a)”; and

13 (2) in paragraph (2)—

14 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
15 “AS OF DATE OF ORDER TO ACTIVE DUTY”; and

16 (B) by inserting before the period at the
17 end the following: “in the case of an obligation
18 or liability covered by subsection (a)(1), or as of
19 the date the servicemember (or servicemember
20 and spouse jointly) incurs the obligation or li-
21 ability concerned under subsection (a)(2)”.

22 (c) STUDENT LOAN DEFINED.—Subsection (d) of
23 such section is amended by adding at the end the following
24 new paragraph:

1 “(3) STUDENT LOAN.—The term ‘student loan’
2 means the following:

3 “(A) A Federal student loan made, in-
4 sured, or guaranteed under title IV of the
5 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070
6 et seq.).

7 “(B) A private student loan as that term
8 is defined in section 140(a) of the Truth in
9 Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1650(a)).”.

10 **SEC. 805. TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL LEASES AFTER**
11 **ASSIGNMENT OR RELOCATION TO QUARTERS**
12 **OF UNITED STATES OR HOUSING FACILITY**
13 **UNDER JURISDICTION OF UNIFORMED SERV-**
14 **ICE.**

15 (a) TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL LEASES.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 305 of the
17 Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App.
18 535) is amended—

19 (A) in subsection (a)(1)—

20 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
21 “or” at the end;

22 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
23 the period at the end and inserting “; or”;
24 and

1 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing new subparagraph:

3 “(C) in the case of a lease described in
4 subsection (b)(1) and subparagraph (C) of such
5 subsection, the date the lessee is assigned to or
6 otherwise relocates to quarters or a housing fa-
7 cility as described in such subparagraph.”; and

8 (B) in subsection (b)(1)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
10 “or” at the end;

11 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
12 the period at the end and inserting “; or”;
13 and

14 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing new subparagraph:

16 “(C) the lease is executed by or on behalf
17 of a person who thereafter and during the term
18 of the lease is assigned to or otherwise relocates
19 to quarters of the United States or a housing
20 facility under the jurisdiction of a uniformed
21 service (as defined in section 101 of title 37,
22 United States Code), including housing pro-
23 vided under the Military Housing Privatization
24 Initiative.”.

1 (2) MANNER OF TERMINATION.—Subsection
2 (c)(1) of such section is amended—

3 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

4 (i) by inserting “in the case of a lease
5 described in subsection (b)(1) and sub-
6 paragraph (A) or (B) of such subsection,”
7 before “by delivery”; and

8 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

9 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
10 subparagraph (C); and

11 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)
12 the following new subparagraph (B):

13 “(B) in the case of a lease described in
14 subsection (b)(1) and subparagraph (C) of such
15 subsection, by delivery by the lessee of written
16 notice of such termination, and a letter from
17 the servicemember’s commanding officer indi-
18 cating that the servicemember has been as-
19 signed to or is otherwise relocating to quarters
20 of the United States or a housing facility under
21 the jurisdiction of a uniformed service (as de-
22 fined in section 101 of title 37, United States
23 Code), to the lessor (or the lessor’s grantee), or
24 to the lessor’s agent (or the agent’s grantee);
25 and”.

1 (b) DEFINITION OF MILITARY ORDERS AND CONTI-
 2 NENTAL UNITED STATES FOR PURPOSES OF ACT.—

3 (1) TRANSFER OF DEFINITIONS.—Such Act is
 4 further amended by transferring paragraphs (1) and
 5 (2) of section 305(i) (50 U.S.C. App. 535(i)) to the
 6 end of section 101 (50 U.S.C. App. 511) and redes-
 7 ignating such paragraphs, as so transferred, as
 8 paragraphs (10) and (11).

9 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such Act is
 10 further amended—

11 (A) in section 305 (50 U.S.C. App. 535),
 12 as amended by paragraph (1), by striking sub-
 13 section (i); and

14 (B) in section 705 (50 U.S.C. App. 595),
 15 by striking “or naval” both places it appears.

16 **SEC. 806. PROTECTION OF SURVIVING SPOUSE WITH RE-**
 17 **SPECT TO MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Servicemembers
 19 Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 531 et seq.) is amended
 20 by inserting after section 303 (50 U.S.C. App. 533) the
 21 following new section:

22 **“SEC. 303A. PROTECTION OF SURVIVING SPOUSE WITH RE-**
 23 **SPECT TO MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), with
 25 respect to a servicemember who dies while in military serv-

1 ice and who has a surviving spouse who is the
2 servicemember's successor in interest to property covered
3 under section 303(a), section 303 shall apply to the sur-
4 viving spouse with respect to that property during the one-
5 year period beginning on the date of such death in the
6 same manner as if the servicemember had not died.

7 “(b) NOTICE REQUIRED.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be covered under this
9 section with respect to property, a surviving spouse
10 shall submit written notice that such surviving
11 spouse is so covered to the mortgagee, trustee, or
12 other creditor of the mortgage, trust deed, or other
13 security in the nature of a mortgage with which the
14 property is secured.

15 “(2) TIME.—Notice provided under paragraph
16 (1) shall be provided with respect to a surviving
17 spouse anytime during the one-year period beginning
18 on the date of death of the servicemember with re-
19 spect to whom the surviving spouse is to receive cov-
20 erage under this section.

21 “(3) ADDRESS.—Notice provided under para-
22 graph (1) with respect to property shall be provided
23 via e-mail, facsimile, standard post, or express mail
24 to facsimile numbers and addresses, as the case may
25 be, designated by the servicer of the mortgage, trust

1 deed, or other security in the nature of a mortgage
2 with which the property is secured.

3 “(4) MANNER.—Notice provided under para-
4 graph (1) shall be provided in writing by using a
5 form designed under paragraph (5) or submitting a
6 copy of a Department of Defense or Department of
7 Veterans Affairs document evidencing the military
8 service-related death of a spouse while in military
9 service.

10 “(5) OFFICIAL FORMS.—The Secretary of De-
11 fense shall design and distribute an official Depart-
12 ment of Defense form that can be used by an indi-
13 vidual to give notice under paragraph (1).”.

14 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 303A of such Act,
15 as added by subsection (a), shall apply with respect to
16 deaths that occur on or after the date of the enactment
17 of this Act.

18 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
19 in section 1(b) of such Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501) is
20 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
21 303 the following new item:

“Sec. 303A. Protection of surviving spouse with respect to mortgage fore-
closure.”.

1 **SEC. 807. IMPROVED PROTECTION OF MEMBERS OF UNI-**
2 **FORMED SERVICES AGAINST DEFAULT JUDG-**
3 **MENTS.**

4 (a) MODIFICATION OF PLAINTIFF AFFIDAVIT FILING
5 REQUIREMENT.—Paragraph (1) of section 201(b) of the
6 Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 521(b))
7 is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and
9 (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indent-
10 ing such clauses two ems to the right;

11 (2) in the matter before clause (i), as redesign-
12 nated by paragraph (1), by striking “In any” and
13 inserting the following:

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In any”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
16 paragraph (B):

17 “(B) DUE DILIGENCE.—Before filing the
18 affidavit, the plaintiff shall conduct a diligent
19 and reasonable investigation to determine
20 whether or not the defendant is in military
21 service, including a search of available records
22 of the Department of Defense and any other in-
23 formation reasonably available to the plaintiff.
24 The affidavit shall set forth all steps taken to
25 determine the defendant’s military status and
26 shall have attached copies of the records on

1 which the plaintiff relied in drafting the affi-
2 davit.”.

3 (b) APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT
4 DEFENDANT IN MILITARY SERVICE.—Paragraph (2) of
5 such section (50 U.S.C. App. 521(b)) is amended—

6 (1) by striking “If in an action” and inserting
7 the following:

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If in an action”;

9 (2) in subparagraph (A), as designated by para-
10 graph (1), by striking “If an attorney” and inserting
11 the following:

12 “(C) LIMITATIONS ON APPOINTED ATTOR-
13 NEY.—If an attorney”;

14 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (A), as des-
15 ignated by paragraph (1), the following new sub-
16 paragraph:

17 “(B) DUE DILIGENCE.—If the court ap-
18 points an attorney to represent the defendant—

19 “(i) the attorney shall conduct a dili-
20 gent and reasonable investigation to deter-
21 mine whether or not the defendant is in
22 military service, including a search of
23 available records of the Department of De-
24 fense and any other information reasonably
25 available to the attorney; and

1 “(ii) the plaintiff shall submit to the
 2 attorney such information as the plaintiff
 3 may have concerning the whereabouts or
 4 identity of the defendant.”; and

5 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-
 6 paragraph:

7 “(D) TREATMENT OF ATTORNEYS FEES.—
 8 The reasonable fees of an attorney appointed to
 9 represent a servicemember shall be treated as
 10 costs of court for court cost purposes, unless
 11 the creditor seeks relief from such charges from
 12 the court.”.

13 **SEC. 808. CLARIFICATION REGARDING APPLICATION OF**
 14 **ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY OF ATTORNEY**
 15 **GENERAL AND PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION**
 16 **UNDER SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF**
 17 **ACT.**

18 Sections 801 and 802 of the Servicemembers Civil
 19 Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 597 and 597a) shall apply as
 20 if such sections were included in the enactment of the Sol-
 21 diers’ and Sailors’ Civil Relief Act of 1940 (54 Stat. 1178,
 22 chapter 888) and included in the restatement of such Act
 23 in Public Law 108–189.

1 **SEC. 809. CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The heading for section 305 of
 3 the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 535)
 4 is amended by striking “**RESIDENTIAL OR MOTOR VE-**
 5 **HICLE LEASES**” and inserting “**LEASES OF PREMISES**
 6 **OCCUPIED AND MOTOR VEHICLES USED**”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in
 8 section 1(b) of such Act (50 U.S.C. App. 501(b)) is
 9 amended by striking the item relating to section 305 and
 10 inserting the following new item:

“Sec. 305. Termination of leases of premises occupied and motor vehicles
 used.”.

11 **TITLE IX—OTHER MATTERS**

12 **SEC. 901. REPEAL OF REDUCTIONS MADE BY BIPARTISAN**
 13 **BUDGET ACT OF 2013.**

14 Section 403 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013
 15 is repealed as of the date of the enactment of such Act.

16 **SEC. 902. CONSIDERATION BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS**
 17 **AFFAIRS OF RESOURCES DISPOSED OF FOR**
 18 **LESS THAN FAIR MARKET VALUE BY INDIVID-**
 19 **UALS APPLYING FOR PENSION.**

20 (a) VETERANS.—Section 1522 is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) by inserting “(1)” before “The Sec-
 23 retary”; and

1 (B) by adding at the end the following new
2 paragraph:

3 “(2)(A) If a veteran otherwise eligible for payment
4 of pension under section 1513 or 1521 of this title or the
5 spouse of such veteran disposes of covered resources for
6 less than fair market value on or after the look-back date
7 described in subparagraph (C)(i), the Secretary shall deny
8 or discontinue the payment of pension to such veteran
9 under section 1513 or 1521 of this title, as the case may
10 be, for months during the period beginning on the date
11 described in subparagraph (D) and equal to the number
12 of months calculated as provided in subparagraph (E).

13 “(B)(i) For purposes of this paragraph, a covered re-
14 source is any resource that was a part of the corpus of
15 the estate of the veteran or, if the veteran has a spouse,
16 the corpus of the estates of the veteran and of the vet-
17 eran’s spouse, that the Secretary considers that under all
18 the circumstances, if the veteran or spouse had not dis-
19 posed of such resource, it would be reasonable that the
20 resource (or some portion of the resource) be consumed
21 for the veteran’s maintenance.

22 “(ii) For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary
23 may consider, in accordance with regulations the Sec-
24 retary shall prescribe, a transfer of an asset (including a
25 transfer of an asset to an annuity, trust, or other financial

1 instrument or investment) a disposal of a covered resource
2 for less than fair market value if such transfer reduces
3 the amount in the corpus of the estate of the veteran or,
4 if the veteran has a spouse, the corpus of the estates of
5 the veteran and of the veteran's spouse, that the Secretary
6 considers, under all the circumstances, would be reason-
7 able to be consumed for the veteran's maintenance.

8 “(C)(i) The look-back date described in this clause
9 is a date that is 36 months before the date described in
10 clause (ii).

11 “(ii) The date described in this clause is the date on
12 which the veteran applies for pension under section 1513
13 or 1521 of this title or, if later, the date on which the
14 veteran (or the spouse of the veteran) disposes of covered
15 resources for less than fair market value.

16 “(D) The date described in this subparagraph is the
17 first day of the first month in or after which covered re-
18 sources were disposed of for less than fair market value
19 and which does not occur in any other period of ineligi-
20 bility under this paragraph.

21 “(E) The number of months calculated under this
22 subparagraph shall be equal to—

23 “(i) the total, cumulative uncompensated value
24 of the portion of covered resources so disposed of by
25 the veteran (or the spouse of the veteran) on or

1 after the look-back date described in subparagraph
2 (C)(i) that the Secretary determines would reason-
3 ably have been consumed for the veteran's mainte-
4 nance; divided by

5 “(ii) the maximum amount of monthly pension
6 that is payable to a veteran under section 1513 or
7 1521 of this title, including the maximum amount of
8 increased pension payable under such sections on ac-
9 count of family members, but not including any
10 amount of pension payable under such sections be-
11 cause a veteran is in need of regular aid and attend-
12 ance or is permanently housebound,
13 rounded down, in the case of any fraction, to the nearest
14 whole number, but shall not in any case exceed 36
15 months.”;

16 (2) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) by inserting “(1)” before “The Sec-
18 retary”; and

19 (B) by adding at the end the following new
20 paragraph:

21 “(2)(A) If a veteran otherwise eligible for payment
22 of increased pension under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f)
23 of section 1521 of this title on account of a child, the
24 spouse of the veteran, or the child disposes of covered re-
25 sources for less than fair market value on or after the

1 look-back date described in subparagraph (C)(i), the Sec-
2 retary shall deny or discontinue payment of such increased
3 pension for months during the period beginning on the
4 date described in subparagraph (D) and equal to the num-
5 ber of months calculated as provided in subparagraph (E).

6 “(B)(i) For purposes of this paragraph, a covered re-
7 source is any resource that was a part of the corpus of
8 the estate of the child that the Secretary considers that
9 under all the circumstances, if the veteran, the spouse of
10 the veteran, or the child had not disposed of such resource,
11 it would be reasonable that the resource (or some portion
12 of the resource) be consumed for the child’s maintenance.

13 “(ii) For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary
14 may consider, in accordance with regulations the Sec-
15 retary shall prescribe, a transfer of an asset (including a
16 transfer of an asset to an annuity, trust, or other financial
17 instrument or investment) a disposal of a covered resource
18 for less than fair market value if such transfer reduces
19 the amount in the corpus of the estate of the child that
20 the Secretary considers, under all the circumstances,
21 would be reasonable to be consumed for the child’s mainte-
22 nance.

23 “(C)(i) The look-back date described in this clause
24 is a date that is 36 months before the date described in
25 clause (ii).

1 “(ii) The date described in this clause is the date on
2 which the veteran applies for payment of increased pen-
3 sion under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 1521
4 of this title on account of a child or, if later, the date
5 on which the veteran, the spouse of the veteran, or the
6 child disposes of covered resources for less than fair mar-
7 ket value.

8 “(D) The date described in this subparagraph is the
9 first day of the first month in or after which covered re-
10 sources were disposed of for less than fair market value
11 and which does not occur in any other period of ineligi-
12 bility under this paragraph.

13 “(E) The number of months calculated under this
14 subparagraph shall be equal to—

15 “(i) the total, cumulative uncompensated value
16 of the portion of the covered resources so disposed
17 of by the veteran, the spouse of the veteran, or the
18 child on or after the look-back date described in sub-
19 paragraph (C)(i) that the Secretary determines
20 would reasonably have been consumed for the child’s
21 maintenance; divided by

22 “(ii) the maximum amount of increased month-
23 ly pension that is payable to a veteran under sub-
24 section (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 1521 of this
25 title on account of a child,

1 rounded down, in the case of any fraction, to the nearest
2 whole number, but shall not in any case exceed 36
3 months.”; and

4 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
5 section:

6 “(c)(1)(A) The Secretary shall not deny or dis-
7 continue payment of pension under section 1513 or 1521
8 of this title or payment of increased pension under sub-
9 section (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 1521 of this title
10 on account of a child by reason of the application of sub-
11 section (a)(2) or (b)(2) of this section to the disposal of
12 resources by an individual—

13 “(i) if—

14 “(I) a satisfactory showing is made to the
15 Secretary (in accordance with regulations pro-
16 mulgated by the Secretary) that all resources
17 disposed of for less than fair market value have
18 been returned to the individual who disposed of
19 the resources; or

20 “(II) the Secretary determines, under pro-
21 cedures established by the Secretary in accord-
22 ance with subparagraph (B), that the denial or
23 discontinuance of payment would work an
24 undue hardship; or

1 “(ii) to the extent that any portion of the re-
2 sources disposed of for less than fair market value
3 have been returned to the individual who disposed of
4 the resources.

5 “(B) Undue hardship would be worked by the denial
6 or discontinuance of payment for purposes of subpara-
7 graph (A)(i)(II) if the denial or discontinuance of payment
8 would deprive the individual during the period of denial
9 or discontinuance—

10 “(i) of medical care such that the individual’s
11 life or health would be endangered;

12 “(ii) of necessary food or clothing, or other ne-
13 cessities of life; or

14 “(iii) on such other basis as the Secretary shall
15 specify in the procedures required by subparagraph
16 (A)(i)(II).

17 “(C) If payment of pension or increased pension that
18 would otherwise be denied or discontinued by reason of
19 the application of subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2) is denied or
20 discontinued only in part by reason of the return of re-
21 sources as described in subparagraph (A)(ii), the period
22 of the denial or discontinuance as determined pursuant to
23 subparagraph (E) of subsection (a)(2) or (b)(2), as appli-
24 cable, shall be recalculated to take into account such re-
25 turn of resources.

1 “(2) At the time a veteran applies for pension under
2 section 1513 or 1521 of this title or increased pension
3 under subsection (c), (d), (e), or (f) of section 1521 of
4 this title on account of a child, and at such other times
5 as the Secretary considers appropriate, the Secretary
6 shall—

7 “(A) inform such veteran of the provisions of
8 subsections (a)(2) and (b)(2) providing for a period
9 of ineligibility for payment of pension under such
10 sections for individuals who make certain dispositions
11 of resources for less than fair market value, including
12 the exception for hardship from such period
13 of ineligibility;

14 “(B) obtain from such veteran information
15 which may be used in determining whether or not a
16 period of ineligibility for such payments would be required
17 by reason of such subsections; and

18 “(C) provide such veteran a timely process for
19 determining whether or not the exception for hardship
20 shall apply to such veteran.”.

21 (b) SURVIVING SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.—Section
22 1543 is amended—

23 (1) in subsection (a)—

24 (A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
25 paragraph (3);

1 (B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
2 following new paragraph (2):

3 “(2)(A) If a surviving spouse otherwise eligible for
4 payment of pension under section 1541 of this title dis-
5 poses of covered resources for less than fair market value
6 on or after the look-back date described in subparagraph
7 (C)(i), the Secretary shall deny or discontinue the pay-
8 ment of pension to such surviving spouse under section
9 1541 of this title for months during the period beginning
10 on the date described in subparagraph (D) and equal to
11 the number of months calculated as provided in subpara-
12 graph (E).

13 “(B)(i) For purposes of this paragraph, a covered re-
14 source is any resource that was a part of the corpus of
15 the estate of the surviving spouse that the Secretary con-
16 sidered that under all the circumstances, if the surviving
17 spouse had not disposed of such resource, it would be rea-
18 sonable that the resource (or some portion of the resource)
19 be consumed for the surviving spouse’s maintenance.

20 “(ii) For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary
21 may consider, in accordance with regulations the Sec-
22 retary shall prescribe, a transfer of an asset (including a
23 transfer of an asset to an annuity, trust, or other financial
24 instrument or investment) a disposal of a covered resource
25 for less than fair market value if such transfer reduces

1 the amount in the corpus of the estate of the surviving
2 spouse that the Secretary considers, under all the cir-
3 cumstances, would be reasonable to be consumed for the
4 surviving spouse's maintenance.

5 “(C)(i) The look-back date described in this clause
6 is a date that is 36 months before the date described in
7 clause (ii).

8 “(ii) The date described in this clause is the date on
9 which the surviving spouse applies for pension under sec-
10 tion 1541 of this title or, if later, the date on which the
11 surviving spouse disposes of covered resources for less
12 than fair market value.

13 “(D) The date described in this subparagraph is the
14 first day of the first month in or after which covered re-
15 sources were disposed of for less than fair market value
16 and which does not occur in any other period of ineligi-
17 bility under this paragraph.

18 “(E) The number of months calculated under this
19 subparagraph shall be equal to—

20 “(i) the total, cumulative uncompensated value
21 of the portion of the covered resources so disposed
22 of by the surviving spouse on or after the look-back
23 date described in subparagraph (C)(i) that the Sec-
24 retary determines would reasonably have been con-

1 sumed for the surviving spouse's maintenance; di-
2 vided by

3 “(ii) the maximum amount of monthly pension
4 that is payable to a surviving spouse under section
5 1541 of this title, including the maximum amount of
6 increased pension payable under such section on ac-
7 count of a child, but not including any amount of
8 pension payable under such section because a sur-
9 viving spouse is in need of regular aid and attend-
10 ance or is permanently housebound,
11 rounded down, in the case of any fraction, to the nearest
12 whole number, but shall not in any case exceed 36
13 months.”;

14 (C) by adding at the end the following new
15 paragraph:

16 “(4)(A) If a surviving spouse otherwise eligible for
17 payment of increased pension under subsection (c), (d),
18 or (e) of section 1541 of this title on account of a child
19 or the child disposes of covered resources for less than fair
20 market value on or after the look-back date described in
21 subparagraph (C)(i), the Secretary shall deny or dis-
22 continue payment of such increased pension for months
23 during the period beginning on the date described in sub-
24 paragraph (D) and equal to the number of months cal-
25 culated as provided in subparagraph (E).

1 “(B)(i) For purposes of this paragraph, a covered re-
2 source is any resource that was a part of the corpus of
3 the estate of the child that the Secretary considers that
4 under all the circumstances, if the surviving spouse or the
5 child had not disposed of such resource, it would be rea-
6 sonable that the resource (or some portion of the resource)
7 be consumed for the child’s maintenance.

8 “(ii) For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary
9 may consider, in accordance with regulations the Sec-
10 retary shall prescribe, a transfer of an asset (including a
11 transfer of an asset to an annuity, trust, or other financial
12 instrument or investment) a disposal of a covered resource
13 for less than fair market value if such transfer reduces
14 the amount in the corpus of the estate of the child that
15 the Secretary considers, under all the circumstances,
16 would be reasonable to be consumed for the child’s mainte-
17 nance.

18 “(C)(i) The look-back date described in this clause
19 is a date that is 36 months before the date described in
20 clause (ii).

21 “(ii) The date described in this clause is the date on
22 which the surviving spouse applies for payment of in-
23 creased pension under subsection (c), (d), or (e) of section
24 1541 of this title on account of a child or, if later, the

1 date on which the surviving spouse (or the child) disposes
2 of covered resources for less than fair market value.

3 “(D) The date described in this subparagraph is the
4 first day of the first month in or after which covered re-
5 sources were disposed of for less than fair market value
6 and which does not occur in any other period of ineligi-
7 bility under this paragraph.

8 “(E) The number of months calculated under this
9 clause shall be equal to—

10 “(i) the total, cumulative uncompensated value
11 of the portion of the covered resources so disposed
12 of by the surviving spouse (or the child) on or after
13 the look-back date described in subparagraph (C)(i)
14 that the Secretary determines would reasonably have
15 been consumed for the child’s maintenance; divided
16 by

17 “(ii) the maximum amount of increased month-
18 ly pension that is payable to a surviving spouse
19 under subsection (c), (d), or (e) of section 1541 of
20 this title on account of a child,

21 rounded down, in the case of any fraction, to the nearest
22 whole number, but shall not in any case exceed 36
23 months.”;

24 (2) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) by inserting “(1)” before “The Sec-
2 retary”; and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following new
4 paragraph:

5 “(2)(A) If a child otherwise eligible for payment of
6 pension under section 1542 of this title or any person with
7 whom such child is residing who is legally responsible for
8 such child’s support disposes of covered resources for less
9 than fair market value on or after the look-back date de-
10 scribed in subparagraph (C)(i), the Secretary shall deny
11 or discontinue the payment of pension to such child under
12 section 1542 of this title for months during the period be-
13 ginning on the date described in subparagraph (D) and
14 equal to the number of months calculated as provided in
15 subparagraph (E).

16 “(B)(i) For purposes of this paragraph, a covered re-
17 source is any resource that was a part of the corpus of
18 the estate of the child or the corpus of the estate of any
19 person with whom such child is residing who is legally re-
20 sponsible for such child’s support that the Secretary con-
21 siders that under all the circumstances, if the child or per-
22 son had not disposed of such resource, it would be reason-
23 able that the resource (or some portion of the resource)
24 be consumed for the child’s maintenance.

1 “(ii) For purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary
2 may consider, in accordance with regulations the Sec-
3 retary shall prescribe, a transfer of an asset (including a
4 transfer of an asset to an annuity, trust, or other financial
5 instrument or investment) a disposal of a covered resource
6 for less than fair market value if such transfer reduces
7 the amount in the corpus of the estate described in clause
8 (i) that the Secretary considers, under all the cir-
9 cumstances, would be reasonable to be consumed for the
10 child’s maintenance.

11 “(C)(i) The look-back date described in this clause
12 is a date that is 36 months before the date described in
13 clause (ii).

14 “(ii) The date described in this clause is the date on
15 which the child applies for pension under section 1542 of
16 this title or, if later, the date on which the child (or person
17 described in subparagraph (B)) disposes of covered re-
18 sources for less than fair market value.

19 “(D) The date described in this clause is the first
20 day of the first month in or after which covered resources
21 were disposed of for less than fair market value and which
22 does not occur in any other period of ineligibility under
23 this paragraph.

24 “(E) The number of months calculated under this
25 clause shall be equal to—

1 “(i) the total, cumulative uncompensated value
2 of the portion of the covered resources so disposed
3 of by the child (or person described in subparagraph
4 (B)) on or after the look-back date described in sub-
5 paragraph (C)(i) that the Secretary determines
6 would reasonably have been consumed for the child’s
7 maintenance; divided by

8 “(ii) the maximum amount of monthly pension
9 that is payable to a child under section 1542 of this
10 title,

11 rounded down, in the case of any fraction, to the nearest
12 whole number, but shall not in any case exceed 36
13 months.”; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
15 section:

16 “(c)(1)(A) The Secretary shall not deny or dis-
17 continue payment of pension under section 1541 or 1542
18 of this title or payment of increased pension under sub-
19 section (c), (d), or (e) of section 1541 of this title on ac-
20 count of a child by reason of the application of subsection
21 (a)(2), (a)(4), or (b)(2) of this section to the disposal of
22 resources by an individual—

23 “(i) if—

24 “(I) a satisfactory showing is made to the
25 Secretary (in accordance with regulations pro-

1 mulgated by the Secretary) that all resources
2 disposed of for less than fair market value have
3 been returned to the individual who disposed of
4 the resources; or

5 “(II) the Secretary determines, under pro-
6 cedures established by the Secretary in accord-
7 ance with subparagraph (B), that the denial or
8 discontinuance of payment would work an
9 undue hardship; or

10 “(ii) to the extent that any portion of the re-
11 sources disposed of for less than fair market value
12 have been returned to the individual who disposed of
13 the resources.

14 “(B) Undue hardship would be worked by the denial
15 or discontinuance of payment for purposes of subpara-
16 graph (A)(i)(II) if the denial or discontinuance of payment
17 would deprive the individual during the period of denial
18 or discontinuance—

19 “(i) of medical care such that the individual’s
20 life or health would be endangered;

21 “(ii) of necessary food or clothing, or other ne-
22 cessities of life; or

23 “(iii) on such other basis as the Secretary shall
24 specify in the procedures required by subparagraph
25 (A)(i)(II).

1 “(C) If payment of pension or increased pension that
2 would otherwise be denied or discontinued by reason of
3 the application of subsection (a)(2), (a)(4), or (b)(2) is
4 denied or discontinued only in part by reason of the return
5 of resources as described in subparagraph (A)(ii), the pe-
6 riod of the denial or discontinuance as determined pursu-
7 ant to subparagraph (E) of subsection (a)(2), (a)(4), or
8 (b)(2), as applicable, shall be recalculated to take into ac-
9 count such return of resources.

10 “(2) At the time a surviving spouse or child applies
11 for pension under section 1541 or 1542 of this title or
12 increased pension under subsection (c), (d), or (e) of sec-
13 tion 1541 of this title on account of a child, and at such
14 other times as the Secretary considers appropriate, the
15 Secretary shall—

16 “(A) inform such surviving spouse or child of
17 the provisions of subsections (a)(2), (a)(4), and
18 (b)(2), as applicable, providing for a period of ineli-
19 gibility for payment of pension or increased pension
20 under such sections for individuals who make certain
21 dispositions of resources for less than fair market
22 value, including the exception for hardship from
23 such period of ineligibility;

24 “(B) obtain from such surviving spouse or child
25 information which may be used in determining

1 whether or not a period of ineligibility for such pay-
2 ments would be required by reason of such sub-
3 sections; and

4 “(C) provide such surviving spouse or child a
5 timely process for determining whether or not the
6 exception for hardship shall apply to such surviving
7 spouse or child.”.

8 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsections (a)(2), (b)(2),
9 and (c) of section 1522 of title 38, United States Code,
10 as added by subsection (a), and subsections (a)(2), (a)(4),
11 (b)(2), and (c) of section 1543 of such title, as added by
12 subsection (b), shall take effect on the date that is one
13 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall
14 apply with respect to payments of pension and increased
15 pension applied for after such date and to payments of
16 pension and increased pension for which eligibility is rede-
17 termined after such date, except that no reduction in pen-
18 sion shall be made under such subsections because of any
19 disposal of covered resources made before such date.

20 (d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 months
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act and not
23 less frequently than once each year thereafter
24 through 2018, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
25 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-

1 gress a report on the administration of subsections
2 (a)(2), (b)(2), and (c) of section 1522 of title 38,
3 United States Code, as added by subsection (a), and
4 subsections (a)(2), (a)(4), (b)(2), and (c) of section
5 1543 of such title, as added by subsection (b), dur-
6 ing the most recent 12-month period.

7 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted under
8 paragraph (1) shall include the following, for the pe-
9 riod covered by the report:

10 (A) The number of individuals who applied
11 for pension under chapter 15 of such title.

12 (B) The number of individuals who re-
13 ceived pension under such chapter.

14 (C) The number of individuals with respect
15 to whom the Secretary denied or discontinued
16 payment of pension under the subsections re-
17 ferred to in paragraph (1).

18 (D) A description of any trends identified
19 by the Secretary regarding pension payments
20 that have occurred as a result of the amend-
21 ments made by this section.

22 (E) Such other information as the Sec-
23 retary considers appropriate.

1 (3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS
 2 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-
 3 priate committees of Congress” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
 5 and the Select Committee on Aging of the Sen-
 6 ate; and

7 (B) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
 8 the House of Representatives.

9 **SEC. 903. EXTENSION OF REDUCED PENSION FOR CERTAIN**
 10 **VETERANS COVERED BY MEDICAID PLANS**
 11 **FOR SERVICES FURNISHED BY NURSING FA-**
 12 **CILITIES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (d)(7) of section 5503
 14 is amended by striking “November 30, 2016” and insert-
 15 ing “September 30, 2023”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

17 (1) SECTION HEADING.—The section heading of
 18 such section is amended to read as follows: “**Re-**
 19 **duced pension for certain hospitalized**
 20 **veterans and certain veterans receiving**
 21 **domiciliary, nursing home, or nursing fa-**
 22 **cility care”.**

23 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections
 24 at the beginning of chapter 55 is amended by strik-

1 ing the item relating to section 5503 and inserting
 2 the following new item:

“5503. Reduced pension for certain hospitalized veterans and certain veterans
 receiving domiciliary, nursing home, or nursing facility care.”.

3 **SEC. 904. CONDITIONS ON AWARD OF PER DIEM PAYMENTS**
 4 **BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR**
 5 **PROVISION OF HOUSING OR SERVICES TO**
 6 **HOMELESS VETERANS.**

7 (a) CONDITION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2012(c)(1) is
 9 amended by striking “unless the facilities” and all
 10 that follows through “may specify.” and inserting
 11 the following: “unless the Secretary certifies the fol-
 12 lowing:

13 “(A) That the building where the grant recipi-
 14 ent or eligible entity provides housing or services for
 15 which the grant recipient or eligible entity would re-
 16 ceive such payment is in compliance with the codes
 17 relevant to the operations and level of care provided,
 18 including applicable provisions of the most recently
 19 published version of the Life Safety Code of the Na-
 20 tional Fire Protection Association or such other
 21 comparable fire and safety requirements as the Sec-
 22 retary may specify.

23 “(B) That such building and such housing or
 24 services are in compliance with licensing require-

1 ments, fire and safety requirements, and any other
2 requirements in the jurisdiction in which the build-
3 ing is located regarding the condition of the building
4 and the provision of such housing or services.”.

5 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
6 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to an ap-
7 plication for a per diem payment under section 2012
8 of title 38, United States Code, submitted on or
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 (b) ANNUAL INSPECTIONS REQUIRED.—Section
11 2012 is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting
12 the following new subsection (b):

13 “(b)(1) Not less frequently than once each fiscal year,
14 the Secretary shall inspect each facility of each grant re-
15 cipient or entity eligible for payments under subsection (a)
16 at which the recipients and entities provide services under
17 section 2011 of this title or this section.

18 “(2) Except as provided in paragraph (1), inspections
19 made under such paragraph shall be made at such times
20 as the Secretary considers necessary.

21 “(3) An inspection of a facility of a recipient or entity
22 described in paragraph (1) made under such paragraph
23 may be made with or without prior notice to the recipient
24 or entity, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

1 “(4) No per diem payment may be provided to a
2 grant recipient or eligible entity under this section unless
3 the facilities of the grant recipient or eligible entity meet
4 such standards as the Secretary shall prescribe.”.

5 (c) REVOCATION OF CERTIFICATION AUTHORIZED.—
6 Subsection (c) of such section is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
8 paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively;

9 (2) in paragraph (1), as amended by subsection
10 (a)(1), by striking “in paragraph (2)” and inserting
11 “in paragraph (4)”; and

12 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
13 lowing new paragraph (2):

14 “(2) The Secretary may revoke any certification
15 made under paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines
16 that such certification is no longer accurate.”.

17 (d) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION OF TERMI-
18 NATION OF PER DIEM REQUIRED.—Such subsection is
19 further amended by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
20 lowing new paragraph (3):

21 “(3) Not later than 30 days after the date on which
22 the Secretary terminates provision of per diem payment
23 under this section to a grant recipient or an eligible entity,
24 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’
25 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Af-

1 fairs of the House of Representatives notice of such termi-
2 nation if such termination were made because a facility
3 of the grant recipient or eligible entity did not comply
4 with—

5 “(A) an applicable provision of the most re-
6 cently published version of the Life Safety Code of
7 the National Fire Protection Association or such
8 other comparable fire and safety requirement as the
9 Secretary has specified; or

10 “(B) a licensing requirement, fire or safety re-
11 quirement, or another requirement in the jurisdic-
12 tion in which the facility is located regarding the
13 condition of the facility.”.

14 (e) TREATMENT OF CURRENT RECIPIENTS OF PER
15 DIEM PAYMENTS.—

16 (1) ASSESSMENT.—In the case of the recipient
17 of a per diem payment under section 2012 of title
18 38, United States Code, that receives such a pay-
19 ment during the year in which this Act is enacted
20 for the provision of housing or services, the Sec-
21 retary of Veterans Affairs shall assess whether the
22 building where such housing or services are provided
23 is and whether the housing and services are in com-
24 pliance as required by section 2012(c)(1) of such
25 title, as amended by subsection (a)(1).

1 (2) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—In the case de-
 2 scribed in paragraph (1), if the Secretary does not
 3 certify the compliance of the building and the hous-
 4 ing or services under such section before the date
 5 that is two years after the date of the enactment of
 6 this Act, the Secretary may not make any additional
 7 per diem payments to the recipient for the provision
 8 of such housing or services under section 2012 of
 9 such title until the Secretary certifies that such
 10 building is and such housing or services are in com-
 11 pliance.

12 (f) CONFORMING CONDITION ON AWARD OF GRANTS
 13 BY SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR COMPREHEN-
 14 SIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS.—Section 2011(b)(5)(A) is
 15 amended by inserting “, including housing and building
 16 codes,”.

17 **SEC. 905. EXCEPTION TO CERTAIN RECAPTURE REQUIRE-**
 18 **MENTS AND TREATMENT OF CONTRACTS AND**
 19 **GRANTS WITH STATE HOMES WITH RESPECT**
 20 **TO CARE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.**

21 (a) EXCEPTION TO CERTAIN RECAPTURE REQUIRE-
 22 MENTS.—Section 8136(b) is amended by inserting “, or
 23 the provision of services or conduct of a program pursuant
 24 to a contract or grant issued or awarded by the Secretary

1 under subchapter II of chapter 20 or section 2031(a)(2)
 2 of this title,” after “outpatient clinic”.

3 (b) CONSTRUCTION.—The amendment made by sub-
 4 section (a) may not be construed to authorize the Sec-
 5 retary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract with
 6 a State home or award a grant to a State home for the
 7 furnishing of residential care for a veteran without—

8 (1) identifying a substantial need for such care;
 9 and

10 (2) determining that the State home is the
 11 most appropriate provider of such care.

12 **SEC. 906. EXTENDED PERIOD FOR SCHEDULING OF MED-**
 13 **ICAL EXAMS FOR VETERANS RECEIVING TEM-**
 14 **PORARY DISABILITY RATINGS FOR SEVERE**
 15 **MENTAL DISORDERS.**

16 Section 1156(a)(3) is amended by striking “six
 17 months” and inserting “18 months”.

18 **SEC. 907. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE VETERANS ID CARDS.**

19 (a) AUTHORITY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
 21 Affairs may issue a card to a veteran that identifies
 22 the veteran as a veteran and includes a photo of the
 23 veteran and the name of the veteran.

24 (2) NO REQUIREMENT FOR ENROLLMENT OR
 25 RECEIPT OF BENEFITS.—The Secretary may issue a

1 card under paragraph (1) to a veteran, whether or
2 not such veteran is—

3 (A) enrolled in the system of annual pa-
4 tient enrollment established under section
5 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code; or

6 (B) in receipt of educational assistance,
7 compensation, or pension under laws adminis-
8 tered by the Secretary.

9 (3) DESIGNATION.—A card issued under para-
10 graph (1) may be known as a “Veterans ID Card”.

11 (b) RECOGNITION OF VETERANS ID CARDS FOR RE-
12 DUCED PRICING OF PHARMACEUTICALS, CONSUMER
13 PRODUCTS, AND SERVICES.—The Secretary may work
14 with national retail chains that offer reduced prices on
15 pharmaceuticals, consumer products, and services to vet-
16 erans to ensure that such retail chains recognize cards
17 issued under subsection (a)(1) for purposes of offering re-
18 duced prices on pharmaceuticals, consumer products, and
19 services.

20 (c) VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term
21 “veteran” has the meaning given the term in section 101
22 of title 38, United States Code.

23 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
24 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
25 ment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 908. HONORING AS VETERANS CERTAIN PERSONS**
2 **WHO PERFORMED SERVICE IN THE RESERVE**
3 **COMPONENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES.**

4 Any person who is entitled under chapter 1223 of
5 title 10, United States Code, to retired pay for nonregular
6 service or, but for age, would be entitled under such chap-
7 ter to retired pay for nonregular service shall be honored
8 as a veteran but shall not be entitled to any benefit by
9 reason of this honor.

10 **SEC. 909. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF**
11 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO OBTAIN INFORMA-**
12 **TION FROM SECRETARY OF TREASURY AND**
13 **COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR**
14 **INCOME VERIFICATION PURPOSES.**

15 Section 5317(g) is amended by striking “September
16 30, 2016” and inserting “September 30, 2018”.

17 **SEC. 910. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF**
18 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ISSUE AND GUAR-**
19 **ANTEE CERTAIN LOANS.**

20 Section 3729(b)(2) is amended—

21 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

22 (A) in clause (iii), by striking “October 1,
23 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2023”;
24 and

25 (B) in clause (iv), by striking “October 1,
26 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2023”;

1 (2) in subparagraph (B)—

2 (A) in clause (i), by striking “October 1,
3 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2023”;
4 and

5 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “October 1,
6 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2023”;

7 (3) in subparagraph (C)—

8 (A) in clause (i), by striking “October 1,
9 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2023”;
10 and

11 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “October 1,
12 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2023”;
13 and

14 (4) in subparagraph (D)—

15 (A) in clause (i), by striking “October 1,
16 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2023”;
17 and

18 (B) in clause (ii), by striking “October 1,
19 2017” and inserting “September 30, 2023”.

20 **SEC. 911. REVIEW OF DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN SERV-**
21 **ICE IN PHILIPPINES DURING WORLD WAR II.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
23 fairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and
24 such military historians as the Secretary of Defense rec-
25 ommends, shall review the process used to determine

1 whether a covered individual served in support of the
2 Armed Forces of the United States during World War II
3 in accordance with section 1002(d) of title X of Division
4 A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
5 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 38 U.S.C. 107 note) for pur-
6 poses of determining whether such covered individual is
7 eligible for payments described in such section.

8 (b) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—In this section, a cov-
9 ered individual is any individual who timely submitted a
10 claim for benefits under subsection (c) of section 1002 of
11 title X of Division A of the American Recovery and Rein-
12 vestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–5; 38 U.S.C. 107
13 note) based on service as described in subsection (d) of
14 that section.

15 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
17 Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
18 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of
19 the House of Representatives a report detailing any find-
20 ings, actions taken, or recommendations for legislative ac-
21 tion with respect to the review conducted under subsection
22 (a).

23 (d) PROHIBITION ON BENEFITS FOR DISQUALIFYING
24 CONDUCT UNDER NEW PROCESS PURSUANT TO RE-
25 VIEW.—If pursuant to the review conducted under sub-

1 section (a) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines
 2 to establish a new process for the making of payments
 3 as described in that subsection, the process shall include
 4 mechanisms to ensure that individuals are not treated as
 5 covered individuals for purposes of such payments if such
 6 individuals engaged in any disqualifying conduct during
 7 service described in that subsection, including collabora-
 8 tion with the enemy or criminal conduct.

9 **SEC. 912. REVIEW OF DETERMINATION OF CERTAIN SERV-**
 10 **ICE OF MERCHANT MARINERS DURING**
 11 **WORLD WAR II.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
 13 fairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the
 14 Secretary of Homeland Security and such military histo-
 15 rians as the Secretary of Defense recommends, shall re-
 16 view the process used to determine whether an individual
 17 performed service under honorable conditions that satis-
 18 fies the requirements of a coastwise merchant seaman who
 19 is recognized pursuant to section 401 of the GI Bill Im-
 20 provement Act of 1977 (Public Law 95–202; 38 U.S.C.
 21 106 note) as having performed active duty service .

22 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
 23 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans
 24 Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs
 25 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of

1 the House of Representatives a report detailing any find-
 2 ings, actions taken, or recommendations for legislative ac-
 3 tion with respect to the review conducted under subsection
 4 (a).

5 **SEC. 913. REPORT ON LAOTIAN MILITARY SUPPORT OF**
 6 **ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES**
 7 **DURING VIETNAM WAR.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
 9 effective date specified in subsection (c), the Secretary of
 10 Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of De-
 11 fense and such agencies and individuals as the Secretary
 12 of Veterans Affairs considers appropriate, shall submit to
 13 the appropriate committees of Congress a report on—

14 (1) the extent to which Laotian military forces
 15 provided combat support to the Armed Forces of the
 16 United States between February 28, 1961, and May
 17 15, 1975;

18 (2) whether the current classification by the Ci-
 19 vilian/Military Service Review Board of the Depart-
 20 ment of Defense of service by individuals of Hmong
 21 ethnicity is appropriate; and

22 (3) any recommendations for legislative action.

23 (b) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In
 24 this section, the term “appropriate committees of Con-
 25 gress” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Armed Services and the
2 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and
3 (2) the Committee on Armed Services and the
4 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
5 Representatives.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
7 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 914. REPORT ON PRACTICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
10 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO ADEQUATELY PRO-**
11 **VIDE SERVICES TO VETERANS WITH HEAR-**
12 **ING LOSS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
15 erans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans'
16 Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
17 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the ac-
18 tions taken by the Secretary to implement the findings
19 and recommendations included in the 2006 report by the
20 Institute of Medicine of the National Academies entitled
21 “Noise and Military Service: Implications for Hearing
22 Loss and Tinnitus” that was prepared pursuant to section
23 104 of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2002 (Public Law
24 107–330; 116 Stat. 2822).

1 (b) EFFECT OF DUTY MILITARY OCCUPATIONAL
2 SPECIALTY NOISE EXPOSURE LISTING ON RECEIPT OF
3 BENEFITS BY VETERANS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall include
5 in the report required by subsection (a) an evalua-
6 tion of the extent to which veterans who had a mili-
7 tary occupational specialty during service as a mem-
8 ber of the Armed Forces that is not included on the
9 Duty Military Occupational Specialty Noise Expo-
10 sure Listing (in this subsection referred to as the
11 “MOS List”) are precluded from receiving benefits
12 related to hearing loss from the Department of Vet-
13 erans Affairs.

14 (2) DATA.—The Secretary shall include in the
15 evaluation required by paragraph (1) the following:

16 (A) With respect to veterans who had a
17 military occupational specialty included on the
18 MOS List—

19 (i) the number of claims for benefits
20 related to hearing loss from the Depart-
21 ment of Veterans Affairs that were grant-
22 ed; and

23 (ii) the number of claims for benefits
24 related to hearing loss from the Depart-
25 ment that were denied.

1 (B) With respect to veterans who had a
2 military occupational specialty not included on
3 the MOS List—

4 (i) the number of claims for benefits
5 related to hearing loss from the Depart-
6 ment that were granted;

7 (ii) the number of claims for benefits
8 related to hearing loss from the Depart-
9 ment that were denied;

10 (iii) of the number of denied claims
11 under clause (ii), the number of those
12 claims that were appealed; and

13 (iv) of the number of appealed claims
14 under clause (iii), the number of those ap-
15 pealed claims that were successfully ap-
16 pealed.

17 (c) ADDITIONAL MATTERS.—The Secretary shall in-
18 clude in the report required by subsection (a) the fol-
19 lowing:

20 (1) In the case of a veteran with unilateral
21 hearing loss, an explanation of the scientific basis
22 for the practice of the Department of determining a
23 disability rating level with respect to hearing based
24 on an examination of that veteran's healthy ear in-
25 stead of the injured ear.

1 (2) An analysis of the reduction in earning ca-
2 capacity for veterans as a result of unilateral hearing
3 loss, with a focus on the ability of those veterans—

4 (A) to detect the direction of sound; and

5 (B) to understand speech.

6 (3) An explanation of the rationale for the prac-
7 tice of the Department of not issuing a compensable
8 rating for hearing loss at certain levels that are se-
9 vere enough to require the use of hearing aids.

10 (4) A survey of the audiologists that conduct
11 compensation and pension examinations for the De-
12 partment to assess the implementation of the most
13 recent edition of the best practices manual for hear-
14 ing loss and tinnitus examinations that includes the
15 following:

16 (A) A description of the training received
17 by those audiologists compared to the methods
18 described in the most recent edition of the best
19 practices manual for hearing loss and tinnitus
20 examinations.

21 (B) An assessment of how those audiol-
22 ogists have complied with that training.

23 (C) Whether those audiologists are using a
24 range of tones up to 8000 hertz to test the
25 hearing of veterans.

1 (d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be
2 construed to authorize or require the Secretary to defer,
3 delay, or replace the ongoing efforts of the Secretary to
4 update the schedule of ratings required by section 1155
5 of title 38, United States Code.

6 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
7 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 915. REPORT ON JOINT PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT**
10 **OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT**
11 **OF DEFENSE WITH RESPECT TO HEARING**
12 **LOSS OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**
13 **AND VETERANS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years after the
15 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Vet-
16 erans Affairs shall, in consultation with the Secretary of
17 Defense, submit to Congress a report that identifies the
18 following:

19 (1) Goals for the Department of Veterans Af-
20 fairs and the Department of Defense for the preven-
21 tion, early detection, and treatment of hearing loss
22 by the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory
23 Research of the Department of Veterans Affairs and
24 the Hearing Center of Excellence of the Department
25 of Defense.

1 (2) Resources of the Department of Veterans
2 Affairs that could be made available to assist the
3 Department of Defense in conducting audiometric
4 tests and tinnitus screenings for members of the
5 Armed Forces.

6 (3) Barriers to information being added to the
7 Hearing Loss and Auditory System Injury Registry
8 required under section 721(c)(1) of the Duncan
9 Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fis-
10 cal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat.
11 4506).

12 (4) Recommendations for any legislative or ad-
13 ministrative actions necessary with respect to the
14 Hearing Loss and Auditory System Injury Reg-
15 istry—

16 (A) to assist in achieving the goals speci-
17 fied in paragraph (1);

18 (B) to improve the adjudication of claims
19 for benefits with respect to hearing loss; and

20 (C) to further the research objectives of
21 the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory
22 Research of the Department of Veterans Affairs
23 and the Hearing Center of Excellence of the
24 Department of Defense.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
2 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act.

4 **SEC. 916. LIMITATION ON AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF BO-**
5 **NUSES PAYABLE TO PERSONNEL OF THE DE-**
6 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DURING**
7 **FISCAL YEAR 2014.**

8 The aggregate amount of bonuses and awards pay-
9 able to personnel of the Department of Veterans Affairs
10 under chapter 45 or 53 of title 5, United States Code,
11 or any other provision of such title, during fiscal year
12 2014 may not exceed \$368,000,000.

13 **SEC. 917. AMENDMENT TO OCO ADJUSTMENTS.**

14 Section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency
15 Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901) is amended—

16 (1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (2)
17 and inserting the following:

18 “(2) ELIMINATING A BREACH.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each non-exempt ac-
20 count within a category shall be reduced by a
21 dollar amount calculated by multiplying the en-
22 acted level of sequestrable budgetary resources
23 in that account at that time by the uniform
24 percentage necessary to eliminate a breach
25 within that category.

“(B) OVERSEAS CONTINGENCIES.—Any amount of budget authority designated as for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism for any of fiscal years 2018 through 2021 in excess of the levels set in subsection (b)(2)(E) shall be counted in determining whether a breach has occurred in the revised security category during the fiscal year.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by inserting “for fiscal years 2012 through 2017,” before “the Congress”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS/GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM.—If, for fiscal years 2018 through 2021, appropriations for discretionary accounts are enacted that Congress designates for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism in statute on an account by account basis and the President subsequently so designates, the adjustment for the fiscal year shall be the total of such appropriations for the fiscal year in discretionary accounts designated as being for Overseas Con-

1 tingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism,
2 but not to exceed—

3 “(i) for fiscal year 2018,
4 \$94,010,000,000 in additional new budget
5 authority;

6 “(ii) for fiscal year 2019,
7 \$96,077,000,000 in additional new budget
8 authority;

9 “(iii) for fiscal year 2020,
10 \$98,253,000,000 in additional new budget
11 authority; and

12 “(iv) for fiscal year 2021,
13 \$100,437,000,000 in additional new budg-
14 et authority.”.

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