

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 832

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out pilot programs on furnishing case management services and assisted living to children of Vietnam veterans and certain Korea service veterans born with spina bifida and children of women Vietnam veterans born with certain birth defects, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 25, 2013

Mr. DONNELLY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out pilot programs on furnishing case management services and assisted living to children of Vietnam veterans and certain Korea service veterans born with spina bifida and children of women Vietnam veterans born with certain birth defects, and for other purposes.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Improving the Lives
5 of Children with Spina Bifida Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON FURNISHING CASE MANAGE-**
2 **MENT SERVICES TO CHILDREN OF VIETNAM**
3 **VETERANS AND CERTAIN KOREA SERVICE**
4 **VETERANS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA AND**
5 **CHILDREN OF WOMEN VIETNAM VETERANS**
6 **BORN WITH CERTAIN BIRTH DEFECTS.**

7 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Commencing not later than
8 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
9 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot pro-
10 gram to assess the feasibility and advisability of furnishing
11 to covered individuals case management services under a
12 national contract with a third party entity.

13 (b) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of this
14 section, a covered individual is any individual who—

15 (1) is entitled to health care or other benefits
16 under chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code;
17 and

18 (2) lives in a rural area and does not have ac-
19 cess to case management services at the Department
20 of Veterans Affairs or otherwise.

21 (c) DURATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
23 vided in this subsection, the pilot program shall be
24 carried out during the three-year period beginning
25 on the date of the commencement of the pilot pro-
26 gram.

1 (2) CONTINUATION.—Subject to paragraph (3),
2 the Secretary may continue the pilot program for an
3 additional two-year period as the Secretary considers
4 appropriate.

5 (3) TERMINATION.—The pilot program may not
6 operate after the date that is five years after the
7 date of the commencement of the pilot program.

8 (d) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall select locations
9 in which to carry out the pilot program from among loca-
10 tions that the Secretary considers rural and where individ-
11 uals who reside in such locations lack access to com-
12 prehensive case management services through the Depart-
13 ment or otherwise.

14 (e) SCOPE OF SERVICES.—Under the pilot program,
15 the Secretary shall provide covered individuals with inte-
16 grated, comprehensive services, including the following:

17 (1) Coordination and management of needed
18 health care, monetary, and general care services au-
19 thorized under chapter 18 of title 38, United States
20 Code.

21 (2) Transportation services.

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

1 (f) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the
2 pilot program, the Secretary shall—

3 (1) inform all covered individuals of the services
4 available under the pilot program;

5 (2) enter into contracts with appropriate third
6 party entities for the provision of case management
7 services under the pilot program; and

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

11 (g) REPORTS.—

12 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORTS.—

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

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

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

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

5 (iii) An analysis of the costs and bene-
6 fits under the pilot program.

7 (iv) An assessment of the utilization
8 of case management under the pilot pro-
9 gram.

10 (v) The findings and conclusions of
11 the Secretary with respect to the pilot pro-
12 gram.

13 (vi) Such recommendations for the
14 continuation or expansion of the pilot pro-
15 gram as the Secretary may have.

16 (2) FINAL REPORT.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
18 days after the completion of the pilot program,
19 the 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 pilot program.

23 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
24 subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

1 (i) The findings and conclusions of
 2 the Secretary with respect to the pilot pro-
 3 gram.

4 (ii) Such recommendations for the
 5 continuation or expansion of the pilot pro-
 6 gram as the Secretary may have.

7 (h) FUNDING.—Amounts to carry out the pilot pro-
 8 gram shall be derived from amounts appropriated or oth-
 9 erwise made available before the date of the enactment
 10 of this Act for the furnishing of care and case manage-
 11 ment under chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code.

12 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM ON FURNISHING ASSISTED LIVING**
 13 **TO CHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS AND**
 14 **CERTAIN KOREA SERVICE VETERANS BORN**
 15 **WITH SPINA BIFIDA AND CHILDREN OF**
 16 **WOMEN VIETNAM VETERANS BORN WITH**
 17 **CERTAIN BIRTH DEFECTS.**

18 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—Commencing not later than
 19 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
 20 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot pro-
 21 gram to assess the feasibility and advisability of providing
 22 assisted living, group home care, or similar services in lieu
 23 of nursing home care to covered individuals.

24 (b) COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—For purposes of this
 25 section, a covered individual is any individual who is enti-

1 tled to health care or other benefits under chapter 18 of
2 title 38, United States Code.

3 (c) DURATION.—

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

9 (2) CONTINUATION.—Subject to paragraph (3),
10 the Secretary may continue the pilot program for an
11 additional two-year period as the Secretary considers
12 appropriate.

13 (3) TERMINATION.—The pilot program may not
14 operate after the date that is five years after the
15 date of the commencement of the pilot program.

16 (d) SCOPE OF SERVICES AND PILOT PROGRAM.—
17 Under the pilot program, the Secretary shall provide cov-
18 ered individuals with integrated, comprehensive services,
19 including the following:

20 (1) Assisted living, group home care, or such
21 other similar services as the Secretary considers ap-
22 propriate.

23 (2) Transportation services.

1 (3) Such other services as the Secretary con-
2 siders appropriate for the care of covered individuals
3 under the pilot program.

4 (e) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the
5 pilot program, the Secretary shall—

6 (1) inform all covered individuals of the services
7 available under the pilot program;

8 (2) consider entering into an agreement with
9 appropriate providers of assisted living, group home
10 care, or other similar services for provision of serv-
11 ices under the pilot program; and

12 (3) determine the appropriate number of cov-
13 ered individuals to be enrolled in the pilot program
14 and criteria for such enrollment.

15 (f) REPORTS.—

16 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORTS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
18 after the date of the commencement of the pilot
19 program and, if the pilot program is continued
20 under subsection (c)(2), not later than three
21 years after the date of the commencement of
22 the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to
23 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Sen-
24 ate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of

1 the House of Representatives a report on the
2 pilot program.

3 (B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted
4 under subparagraph (A) shall include the fol-
5 lowing:

6 (i) A description of the implementa-
7 tion and operation of the pilot program.

8 (ii) The number of covered individuals
9 receiving benefits under the pilot program.

10 (iii) An analysis that compares the
11 costs of furnishing assisted living, group
12 home care, or similar service with the costs
13 of furnishing nursing home care.

14 (iv) An analysis of the costs and bene-
15 fits under the pilot program.

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

19 (vi) Such recommendations for the
20 continuation or expansion of the pilot pro-
21 gram as the Secretary may have.

22 (2) FINAL REPORT.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
24 days after the completion of the pilot program,
25 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on

1 Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
2 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of
3 Representatives a report on the pilot program.

4 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
5 subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

6 (i) The findings and conclusions of
7 the Secretary with respect to the pilot pro-
8 gram.

9 (ii) Such recommendations for the
10 continuation or expansion of the pilot pro-
11 gram as the Secretary may have.

12 (g) FUNDING.—Amounts to carry out the pilot pro-
13 gram shall be derived from amounts appropriated or oth-
14 erwise made available before the date of the enactment
15 of this Act for the furnishing of nursing home care under
16 chapter 18 of title 38, United States Code.

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