

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1543

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations were made for fiscal year 2015, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California (for himself, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. HAHN, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. ISSA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain major medical facility projects for which appropriations were made for fiscal year 2015, 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 “Department of Vet-
5 erans Affairs Medical Facility Earthquake Protection and
6 Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FA-**
2 **CILITY PROJECTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF**
3 **VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR WHICH AMOUNTS**
4 **HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATED.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Consolidated and Further Continuing
7 Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113–235),
8 appropriated to the Department of Veterans Af-
9 fairs—

10 (A) \$35,000,000 to make seismic correc-
11 tions to Building 205 in the West Los Angeles
12 Medical Center of the Department in Los Ange-
13 les, California, which, according to the Depart-
14 ment, is a building that is designated as having
15 an exceptionally high risk of sustaining sub-
16 stantial damage or collapsing during an earth-
17 quake;

18 (B) \$101,900,000 to replace the commu-
19 nity living center and mental health facilities of
20 the Department in Long Beach, California,
21 which, according to the Department, are des-
22 ignated as having an exceptionally high risk of
23 sustaining substantial damage or collapsing
24 during an earthquake;

25 (C) \$187,500,000 to replace the existing
26 spinal cord injury clinic of the Department in

1 San Diego, California, which, according to the
2 Department, is designated as having an ex-
3 tremely high risk of sustaining major damage
4 during an earthquake; and

5 (D) \$122,400,000 to make renovations to
6 address substantial safety and compliance
7 issues at the medical center of the Department
8 in Canandaigua, New York, and for the con-
9 struction of a new clinic and community living
10 center at such medical center.

11 (2) The Department is unable to obligate or ex-
12 pend the amounts described in paragraph (1) be-
13 cause it lacks an explicit authorization by an Act of
14 Congress pursuant to section 8104(a)(2) of title 38,
15 United States Code, to carry out the major medical
16 facility projects described in such paragraph.

17 (3) Among the major medical facility projects
18 described in paragraph (1), three are critical seismic
19 safety projects in California.

20 (4) Every day that the critical seismic safety
21 projects described in paragraph (3) are delayed puts
22 the lives of veterans and employees of the Depart-
23 ment at risk.

24 (5) According to the United States Geological
25 Survey—

1 (A) California has a 99 percent chance or
2 greater of experiencing an earthquake of mag-
3 nitude 6.7 or greater in the next 30 years;

4 (B) even earthquakes of less severity than
5 magnitude 6.7 can cause life threatening dam-
6 age to seismically unsafe buildings; and

7 (C) in California, earthquakes of mag-
8 nitude 6.0 or greater occur on average once
9 every 1.2 years.

10 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
11 fairs may carry out the major medical facility projects of
12 the Department of Veterans Affairs specified in the ex-
13 planatory statement accompanying the Consolidated and
14 Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public
15 Law 113–235) at the locations and in the amounts speci-
16 fied in such explanatory statement, including by obligating
17 and expending such amounts.

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