

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6207

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain improvements
in scheduling veterans for health care appointments.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

Mr. VALADAO (for himself, Mr. DENHAM, Mr. KNIGHT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CURBELO of Florida, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Ms. JENKINS of Kansas, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. COLLINS of New York, Mr. NUNES, and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain
improvements in scheduling veterans for health care ap-
pointments.

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 “ACT to Improve VA
5 Timing and Efficiency” or the “ACTivate Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. USE OF PRIVATE ENTITIES TO SCHEDULE AND MAN-** 7 **AGE HEALTH CARE APPOINTMENTS.**

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

1 (1) There have been problems with scheduling
2 veterans for health appointments with the Depart-
3 ment of Veterans Affairs.

4 (2) There is no defined process for scheduling
5 such appointments, thus inhibiting the quality of
6 health care provided to veterans by the Department.

7 (3) A report by the Inspector General of the
8 Department of Veterans Affairs shows that 64 per-
9 cent of such appointments are scheduled outside of
10 the 30-day target for timely care.

11 (4) A report by the Northern Virginia Tech-
12 nology Council found that the exam-scheduling proc-
13 esses of the Department are insufficient and are a
14 contributing factor in the overall backlog at medical
15 facilities of the Department.

16 (b) AWARD OF CONTRACTS.—The Secretary shall
17 seek to award contracts to private entities to assist the
18 Secretary with scheduling and managing appointments for
19 hospital care and medical services by veterans enrolled in
20 the patient enrollment system established by section 1705
21 of title 38, United States Code.

22 (c) SCOPE.—The Secretary shall ensure that the as-
23 sistance provided pursuant to a contract awarded under
24 subsection (b) augments the process by which the Sec-
25 retary schedules and manages appointments for hospital

1 care and medical services, including initial appointments,
2 home health care visits, and follow-up appointments (in-
3 cluding with respect to appointments with or for physi-
4 cians, laboratory work, and tests).

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