

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1721

To require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a joint uniform formulary with respect to systemic pain and psychotropic drugs that are critical for the transition of an individual from receiving health care services furnished by the Secretary of Defense to health care services furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 8, 2015

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a joint uniform formulary with respect to systemic pain and psychotropic drugs that are critical for the transition of an individual from receiving health care services furnished by the Secretary of Defense to health care services furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Joint Formularies for
3 Veterans Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF STRATEGIC UNIFORM DRUG**
2 **FORMULARY FOR THE PROVISION OF**
3 **HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO MEMBERS OF**
4 **THE ARMED FORCES UNDERGOING SEPARA-**
5 **TION FROM THE ARMED FORCES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the
7 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly establish a proc-
8 ess to make available to individuals undergoing the transi-
9 tion from the receipt of health care services through the
10 Department of Defense to the receipt of such services
11 through the Department of Veterans Affairs systemic pain
12 and psychotropic drugs that are critical to the Department
13 of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs for
14 the appropriate and effective provision of health care serv-
15 ices to such individuals.

16 (b) STRATEGIC UNIFORM FORMULARY.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection
18 (a), the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of
19 Veterans Affairs shall jointly establish, and from
20 time to time update, a strategic, evidence-based, uni-
21 form formulary for the Department of Defense and
22 the Department of Veterans Affairs that includes all
23 appropriate systemic pain and psychotropic drugs
24 that the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of
25 Veterans Affairs jointly determine are critical to the
26 Department of Defense and the Department of Vet-

erans Affairs for the appropriate and effective provision of health care services to individuals described in such subsection.

(2) INAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF LAW.—Section 1074g of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply to the establishing and updating of the formulary required by paragraph (1).

(c) PRESERVATION OF AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from each maintaining their own formularies.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the establishment of the formulary under subsection (b).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate; and

1 (B) the Committee on Armed Services and
2 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
3 House of Representatives.

○