

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2049

To establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a continuing medical education program for non-Department medical professionals who treat veterans and family members of veterans to increase knowledge and recognition of medical conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

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

A BILL

To establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a continuing medical education program for non-Department medical professionals who treat veterans and family members of veterans to increase knowledge and recognition of medical conditions common to veterans and family members of 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. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CON-**
2 **TINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR CER-**
3 **TAIN NON-DEPARTMENT MEDICAL PROFES-**
4 **SIONALS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTINUING MEDICAL
6 EDUCATION PROGRAM.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
8 Affairs shall establish a continuing medical edu-
9 cation program for non-Department medical profes-
10 sionals with the goal of—

11 (A) increasing knowledge and recognition
12 of medical conditions common to veterans and
13 family members of veterans; and

14 (B) improving outreach to veterans and
15 family members of veterans.

16 (2) EDUCATION PROVIDED.—The program shall
17 include education on the following:

18 (A) Dealing with patients who are veterans
19 or family members of veterans.

20 (B) Identifying and treating common men-
21 tal and physical conditions of veterans and fam-
22 ily members of veterans.

23 (C) Programs and benefits available to vet-
24 erans and family members of veterans through
25 the following organizations:

1 (i) The Department of Veterans Af-
2 fairs.

3 (ii) The Department of Labor.

4 (iii) Such other Federal agencies and
5 non-Federal organizations as the Secretary
6 considers appropriate.

7 (D) The health care system of the Depart-
8 ment of Veterans Affairs.

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

11 (b) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The program shall be
12 carried out during the five-year period beginning on the
13 date of the enactment of this Act.

14 (c) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
16 out the program on an Internet website of the De-
17 partment of Veterans Affairs.

18 (2) CURRICULUM AND CREDIT PROVIDED.—The
19 Secretary shall determine the curriculum of the pro-
20 gram and the number of hours of credit to provide
21 to participating non-Department medical profes-
22 sionals for continuing medical education.

23 (3) ACCREDITATION.—The Secretary shall en-
24 sure that the program is accredited in as many
25 States as practicable.

1 (4) CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING RULES.—The
 2 Secretary shall ensure that the program is consistent
 3 with the rules and regulations of the following:

4 (A) The medical licensing agency of each
 5 State in which the program is accredited.

6 (B) Such medical credentialing organiza-
 7 tions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

8 (5) USER COST.—The Secretary shall carry out
 9 the program at no cost to participating non-Depart-
 10 ment medical professionals.

11 (d) NON-DEPARTMENT MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL
 12 DEFINED.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—In this section, the term
 14 “non-Department medical professional” means any
 15 individual specified in paragraph (2) who is licensed
 16 by an appropriate medical authority in the United
 17 States and in good standing, is not an employee of
 18 the Department of Veterans Affairs, and provides
 19 care to veterans or family members of veterans
 20 under the laws administered by the Secretary of Vet-
 21 erans Affairs.

22 (2) INDIVIDUAL SPECIFIED.—An individual
 23 specified in this paragraph is any of the following in-
 24 dividuals:

25 (A) A doctor.

- 1 (B) A nurse.
- 2 (C) A physician assistant.
- 3 (D) A psychologist.
- 4 (E) A psychiatrist.
- 5 (F) Such other individuals as the Secretary
- 6 considers appropriate.

