

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4909

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of a health care copayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from a veteran who is a member of an Indian Tribe.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 18, 2020

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of a health care copayment by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from a veteran who is a member of an Indian Tribe.

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 “Native American Vet-
5 eran Parity in Access to Care Today Act” or the “Native
6 American Veteran PACT Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION OF A HEALTH CARE**
 2 **COPAYMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF VET-**
 3 **ERANS AFFAIRS FROM A VETERAN WHO IS A**
 4 **MEMBER OF AN INDIAN TRIBE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1730A of title 38, United
 6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in the heading, by striking “**catastroph-**
 8 **ically disabled**” and inserting “**certain**”;

9 (2) by inserting “(a) PROHIBITION.—” before
 10 “Notwithstanding”;

11 (3) by striking “a veteran who is catastroph-

12 ically disabled, as defined by the Secretary,” and in-

13 serting “a covered veteran”; and

14 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-

15 section:

16 “(b) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,
 17 the term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who—

18 “(1) is catastrophically disabled, as defined by
 19 the Secretary; or

20 “(2) is an Indian or urban Indian (as those
 21 terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Health
 22 Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)).”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
 24 at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended

1 by striking the item relating to section 1730A and insert-
2 ing the following new item:

“1730A. Prohibition on collection of copayments from certain veterans.”.

3 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
4 this section shall take effect on the date that is one year
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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