

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3458

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of traumatic brain injury care in rural areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of traumatic brain injury care in rural areas.

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. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT**
4 **PROGRAM ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**
5 **CARE IN RURAL AREAS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs shall carry out a pilot program in five rural States
8 selected by the Secretary, in consultation with the Office
9 of Rural Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
10 In each of the five States selected, the Secretary shall as-

1 sign a specific Department of Veterans Affairs case man-
2 ager to each individual diagnosed with traumatic brain in-
3 jury who is receiving care in a medical facility of the De-
4 partment of Veterans Affairs in a selected State. In car-
5 rying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

6 (1) provide training at Department of Veterans
7 Affairs medical facilities located in the selected
8 States for Department of Veterans Affairs case
9 managers who are assigned to individuals diagnosed
10 with traumatic brain injury;

11 (2) coordinate with non-Department medical fa-
12 cilities located in the selected States to provide for
13 such training, as appropriate;

14 (3) determine an appropriate ratio of traumatic
15 brain injury patients to each case manager to ensure
16 the patients receive proper and efficient treatment;

17 (4) for any area in a selected State in which no
18 Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility is
19 easily accessible, seek to enter into a contract with
20 a private health care provider located in that area
21 under which the Secretary shall reimburse the pro-
22 vider for providing health care to traumatic brain in-
23 jury patients residing in that area; and

24 (5) provide updated information on the treat-
25 ment of traumatic brain injuries to private health

1 care providers that have entered into contracts with
2 the Secretary under paragraph (4).

3 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
4 shall submit to Congress an annual report on the pilot
5 program under this section.

6 (c) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a
7 pilot program under this section shall terminate on the
8 date that is five years after the date of the enactment of
9 this Act.

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