

In the Senate of the United States,

August 6, 2009.

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 1016) entitled “An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide advance appropriations authority for certain accounts of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENT:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

1 ***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.***

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Health Care*
3 *Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009”.*

4 ***SEC. 2. FINDINGS.***

5 *Congress makes the following findings:*

6 *(1) Title 38, United States Code, authorizes the*
7 *Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish hospital and*
8 *domiciliary care, medical services, nursing home care,*
9 *and related services to eligible and enrolled veterans,*

1 *but only to the extent that appropriated resources and*
2 *facilities are available for such purposes.*

3 (2) *For 19 of the past 22 fiscal years, funds have*
4 *not been appropriated for the Department of Veterans*
5 *Affairs for the provision of health care as of the com-*
6 *mencement of the new fiscal year, causing the Depart-*
7 *ment great challenges in planning and managing*
8 *care for enrolled veterans, to the detriment of vet-*
9 *erans.*

10 (3) *The cumulative effect of insufficient, late,*
11 *and unpredictable funding for the Department for*
12 *health care endangers the viability of the health care*
13 *system of the Department and impairs the specialized*
14 *health care resources the Department requires to*
15 *maintain and improve the health of sick and disabled*
16 *veterans.*

17 (4) *Appropriations for the health care programs*
18 *of the Department have too often proven insufficient*
19 *over the past decade, requiring the Secretary to ration*
20 *health care and Congress to approve supplemental ap-*
21 *propriations for those programs.*

22 (5) *Providing sufficient, timely, and predictable*
23 *funding would ensure the Government meets its obli-*
24 *gation to provide health care to sick and disabled vet-*
25 *erans and ensure that all veterans enrolled for health*

1 *care through the Department have ready access to*
2 *timely and high quality care.*

3 *(6) Providing sufficient, timely, and predictable*
4 *funding would allow the Department to properly plan*
5 *for and meet the needs of veterans.*

6 **SEC. 3. TWO-FISCAL YEAR BUDGET AUTHORITY FOR CER-**
7 **TAIN MEDICAL CARE ACCOUNTS OF THE DE-**
8 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

9 *(a) TWO-FISCAL YEAR BUDGET AUTHORITY.—*

10 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United*
11 *States Code, is amended by inserting after section 113*
12 *the following new section:*

13 **“§113A. Two-fiscal year budget authority for certain**
14 **medical care accounts**

15 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with fiscal year 2011,*
16 *new discretionary budget authority provided in an appro-*
17 *priations Act for the appropriations accounts of the Depart-*
18 *ment specified in subsection (b) shall be made available for*
19 *the fiscal year involved, and shall include new discretionary*
20 *budget authority for such appropriations accounts that first*
21 *become available for the first fiscal year after such fiscal*
22 *year.*

23 *“(b) MEDICAL CARE ACCOUNTS.—The medical care*
24 *accounts of the Department specified in this subsection are*

1 *the medical care accounts of the Veterans Health Adminis-*
 2 *tration as follows:*

3 “(1) *Medical Services.*

4 “(2) *Medical Support and Compliance.*

5 “(3) *Medical Facilities.*”.

6 (2) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sec-*
 7 *tions at the beginning of chapter 1 of such title is*
 8 *amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-*
 9 *tion 113 the following new item:*

“113A. *Two-fiscal year budget authority for certain medical care accounts.*”.

10 **SEC. 4. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES**

11 **STUDY ON ADEQUACY AND ACCURACY OF**
 12 **BASELINE MODEL PROJECTIONS OF THE DE-**
 13 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR**
 14 **HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURES.**

15 (a) *STUDY OF ADEQUACY AND ACCURACY OF BASE-*
 16 *LINE MODEL PROJECTIONS.*—*The Comptroller General of*
 17 *the United States shall conduct a study of the adequacy*
 18 *and accuracy of the budget projections made by the Enrollee*
 19 *Health Care Projection Model, its equivalent, or other meth-*
 20 *odologies, as utilized for the purpose of estimating and pro-*
 21 *jecting health care expenditures of the Department of Vet-*
 22 *erans Affairs (in this section referred to as the “Model”)*
 23 *with respect to the fiscal year involved and the subsequent*
 24 *four fiscal years.*

25 (b) *REPORTS.*—

1 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than the date of
2 each year in 2011, 2012, and 2013, on which the
3 President submits the budget request for the next fis-
4 cal year under section 1105 of title 31, United States
5 Code, the Comptroller General shall submit to the ap-
6 propriate committees of Congress and to the Secretary
7 a report.

8 (2) *ELEMENTS.*—Each report under this para-
9 graph shall include, for the fiscal year beginning in
10 the year in which such report is submitted, the fol-
11 lowing:

12 (A) A statement whether the amount re-
13 quested in the budget of the President for expend-
14 itures of the Department for health care in such
15 fiscal year is consistent with anticipated expend-
16 itures of the Department for health care in such
17 fiscal year as determined utilizing the Model.

18 (B) The basis for such statement.

19 (C) Such additional information as the
20 Comptroller General determines appropriate.

21 (3) *AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.*—Each report
22 submitted under this subsection shall also be made
23 available to the public.

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

4 (A) *the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs,*
5 *Appropriations, and the Budget of the Senate;*
6 *and*

7 (B) *the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs,*
8 *Appropriations, and the Budget of the House of*
9 *Representatives.*

Attest:

Secretary.

11TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H.R. 1016

AMENDMENT