

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2738

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide travel expenses for family caregivers accompanying veterans to medical treatment facilities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 4, 2009

Mr. TEAGUE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide travel expenses for family caregivers accompanying veterans to medical treatment facilities.

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. LODGING AND SUBSISTENCE FOR FAMILY**  
4 **CAREGIVERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 111(e) of title 38, United  
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by striking “When any” and inserting “(1)  
8 When any”;

9 (2) in paragraph (1), as designated by para-  
10 graph (1) of this subsection—

1 (A) by striking “(other than an employee  
2 of the Department)” and inserting “, including  
3 a family caregiver (as defined in section  
4 1701(11)) and excluding an employee of the  
5 Department,”;

6 (B) by inserting “(including lodging and  
7 subsistence)” after “expenses of travel”; and

8 (C) by inserting before the period at the  
9 end the following: “during—

10 “(A) the period of time in which such per-  
11 son is traveling to and from a treatment facil-  
12 ity; and

13 “(B) the duration of the treatment episode  
14 for such person”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
16 paragraph:

17 “(2) The Secretary may prescribe regulations to  
18 carry out this subsection. Such regulations may in-  
19 clude provisions—

20 “(A) to limit the number of attendants  
21 that may receive expenses of travel under para-  
22 graph (1) for a single treatment episode of a  
23 person; and

24 “(B) to require attendants to use certain  
25 travel services.”.

1 (b) DEFINITION OF FAMILY CAREGIVER.—Section  
2 1701 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-  
3 ing at the end the following new paragraphs:

4 “(10) The term ‘caregiver services’ means non-  
5 institutional extended care (as used in section  
6 1701(6) of this title), including homemaker and  
7 home health aid services.

8 “(11) The term ‘family caregiver’ means an in-  
9 dividual who—

10 “(A) is a member of the family (including  
11 parents, spouses, children, siblings, step-family  
12 members, and extended family members) of a  
13 disabled veteran;

14 “(B) provides caregiver services to such  
15 veteran for such disability; and

16 “(C) may or may not reside with such vet-  
17 eran.”.

18 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 111 of  
19 title 38, United States Code, is further amended—

20 (1) in subsection (d)(3), by inserting “(includ-  
21 ing a family caregiver defined in section 1701)”  
22 after “attendant”; and

1           (2) in subsection (f), by inserting “(including a  
2           family caregiver defined in section 1701)” after “at-  
3           tendants”.

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