

## Union Calendar No. 670

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2787

[Report No. 115–867]

To establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a pilot program instituting a clinical observation program for pre-med students preparing to attend medical school.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. JONES, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

JULY 24, 2018

Additional sponsor: Mr. KILMER

JULY 24, 2018

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 6, 2017]

# **A BILL**

To establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a pilot program instituting a clinical observation program for pre-med students preparing to attend medical school.

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 “Veterans-Specific Edu-*  
5 *cation for Tomorrow’s Health Professionals Act” or the “Vet*  
6 *HP Act”.*

7 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF**  
8 **VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM FOR**  
9 **CLINICAL OBSERVATION BY UNDER-**  
10 **GRADUATE STUDENTS.**

11 *It is the sense of Congress that the pilot program de-*  
12 *scribed in section 3(a) should be designed to—*

13 *(1) increase the awareness, knowledge, and em-*  
14 *pathy of future health professionals toward the health*  
15 *conditions common to veterans;*

16 *(2) increase the diversity of the recruitment pool*  
17 *of future physicians of the Department; and*

18 *(3) expand clinical observation opportunities for*  
19 *all students by encouraging students of all back-*  
20 *grounds to consider a career in the health professions.*

21 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PRO-**  
22 **GRAM FOR CLINICAL OBSERVATION BY UN-**  
23 **DERGRADUATE STUDENTS.**

24 *(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-*  
25 *fairs shall carry out a pilot program for a one-year period,*

1 *beginning not later than August 15, 2021, to provide cer-*  
2 *tain students described in subsection (d) a clinical observa-*  
3 *tion experience at medical centers of the Department of Vet-*  
4 *erans Affairs.*

5 (b) *MEDICAL CENTER SELECTION.*—*The Secretary*  
6 *shall carry out the pilot program under this section at not*  
7 *fewer than five medical centers of the Department. In select-*  
8 *ing such medical centers, the Secretary shall ensure regional*  
9 *diversity among such selected medical centers.*

10 (c) *CLINICAL OBSERVATION SESSIONS.*—

11 (1) *FREQUENCY AND DURATION.*—*In carrying*  
12 *out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—*

13 (A) *provide at least one and not more than*  
14 *three clinical observation sessions at each med-*  
15 *ical center selected during each calendar year;*

16 (B) *ensure that each clinical observation*  
17 *session—*

18 (i) *lasts between four and six months;*

19 *and*

20 (ii) *to the extent practicable, begins*  
21 *and ends concurrently with one or more*  
22 *academic terms of an institution of higher*  
23 *education (as defined in section 101 of the*  
24 *Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.*  
25 *1001)); and*

1           (C) ensure that the clinical observation ses-  
2           sions provided at a medical center have minimal  
3           overlap.

4           (2) SESSIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that  
5           the pilot program consists of clinical observation ses-  
6           sions as follows:

7           (A) Each session shall allow for not fewer  
8           than five students nor greater than 15 students  
9           to participate in the session.

10          (B) Each session shall consist of not fewer  
11          than 20 observational hours nor greater than 40  
12          observational hours.

13          (C) A majority of the observational hours  
14          shall be spent observing a health professional.  
15          The other observational hours shall be spent in  
16          a manner that ensures a robust, well rounded ex-  
17          perience that exposes the students to a variety of  
18          aspects of medical care and health care adminis-  
19          tration.

20          (D) Each session shall provide a diverse  
21          clinical observation experience.

22       (d) STUDENTS.—

23           (1) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select to  
24           participate in the pilot program under subsection (a)  
25           students who are—

1           (A) *nationals of the United States;*

2           (B) *enrolled in an accredited program of*  
3 *study at an institution of higher education; and*

4           (C) *referred by their institution of higher*  
5 *education following an internal application*  
6 *process.*

7           (2) *PRIORITY.—In making such selection, the*  
8 *Secretary shall give priority to each of the following*  
9 *five categories of students:*

10           (A) *Students who, at the time of the comple-*  
11 *tion of their secondary education, resided in a*  
12 *health professional shortage area (as defined in*  
13 *section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42*  
14 *U.S.C. 254e)).*

15           (B) *First generation college students (as de-*  
16 *fined in section 402A(h)(3) of the Higher Edu-*  
17 *cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).*

18           (C) *Students who have been referred by mi-*  
19 *nority-serving institutions (as defined in section*  
20 *371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20*  
21 *U.S.C. 1067q(a))).*

22           (D) *Veterans (as defined in section 101 of*  
23 *title 38, United States Code).*

24           (E) *Students who indicate an intention to*  
25 *specialize in a health professional occupation*

1           *identified by the Inspector General of the De-*  
2           *partment under section 7412 of title 38, United*  
3           *States Code, as having a staffing shortage.*

4           (3) *ASSIGNMENT TO MEDICAL CENTERS.—The*  
5           *Secretary shall assign students selected under para-*  
6           *graph (1) to medical centers selected under subsection*  
7           *(b) without regard for whether such medical centers*  
8           *have staffing shortages in any health professional oc-*  
9           *cupation pursuant to section 7412 of title 38, United*  
10          *States Code.*

11          (e) *OTHER MATTERS.—In carrying out the pilot pro-*  
12          *gram under this section, the Secretary shall—*

13                 (1) *establish a formal status to facilitate the ac-*  
14                 *cess to medical centers of the Department by student*  
15                 *observers participating in the pilot program;*

16                 (2) *establish standardized legal, privacy, and*  
17                 *ethical requirements for the student observers, includ-*  
18                 *ing with respect to—*

19                         (A) *ensuring that no student observer pro-*  
20                         *vides any care to patients while participating as*  
21                         *an observer; and*

22                         (B) *ensuring the suitability of a student to*  
23                         *participate in the pilot program to ensure that*  
24                         *the student poses no risk to patients;*

1           (3) *develop and implement a partnership strat-*  
2           *egy with minority-serving institutions to encourage*  
3           *referrals;*

4           (4) *create standardized procedures for student*  
5           *observers;*

6           (5) *create an online information page about the*  
7           *pilot program on the internet website of the Depart-*  
8           *ment;*

9           (6) *publish on the online information page cre-*  
10          *ated under paragraph (5) the locations of such cen-*  
11          *ters, and other information on the pilot program, not*  
12          *later than 180 days before the date on which applica-*  
13          *tions are required to be submitted by potential stu-*  
14          *dent observers;*

15          (7) *identify medical centers and specific health*  
16          *professionals participating in the pilot program; and*

17          (8) *notify the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of*  
18          *the House of Representatives and the Senate of the*  
19          *medical centers selected under subsection (c) within*  
20          *30 days of selection, to facilitate program awareness.*

21          (f) *REPORT.*—*Not later than 180 days after the com-*  
22          *pletion of the pilot program under subsection (a), the Sec-*  
23          *retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs*  
24          *of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on*  
25          *the results of the pilot program, including—*



1           (1) *the number and demographics of all appli-*  
2           *cants, those accepted to participate in the pilot pro-*  
3           *gram, and those who completed the pilot program;*  
4           *and*

5           (2) *if participating institutions of higher edu-*  
6           *cation choose to administer satisfaction surveys that*  
7           *assess the experience of those who completed the pilot*  
8           *program, the results of any such satisfaction surveys,*  
9           *provided at the discretion of the institution of higher*  
10          *education.*

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