

[~118H939]

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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to coordinate, navigate, and manage care and benefits for veterans enrolled in both the Medicare program and the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. CISCOMANI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to coordinate, navigate, and manage care and benefits for veterans enrolled in both the Medicare program and the system of annual patient enrollment of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Coordinating Care for  
5       Senior Veterans and Wounded Warriors Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON COORDINATION OF CARE BE-**  
2 **TWEEN DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
3 **AND MEDICARE PROGRAM.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
5 with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall  
6 carry out a pilot program (in this section referred to as  
7 the “pilot program”) to coordinate, navigate, and manage  
8 care and benefits for covered veterans.

9 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the pilot program  
10 are as follows:

11 (1) To improve access to health care services  
12 for covered veterans at medical facilities of the De-  
13 partment of Veterans Affairs, from health care pro-  
14 viders under the Veterans Community Care Program  
15 under section 1703 of title 38, United States Code,  
16 from health care providers with which the Depart-  
17 ment has established a Veterans Care Agreement  
18 under section 1703A of such title, and from health  
19 care providers participating in the Medicare program  
20 under title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42  
21 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.).

22 (2) To improve outcomes of care received by  
23 covered veterans.

24 (3) To improve quality of care received by cov-  
25 ered veterans.

1           (4) To lower costs of care received by covered  
2 veterans.

3           (5) To eliminate gaps in care and duplication of  
4 services and expenses for covered veterans.

5           (6) To improve care coordination for covered  
6 veterans, including coordination of patient informa-  
7 tion and medical records between providers.

8       (c) ADMINISTRATION.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry  
10 out the pilot program through the Center for Inno-  
11 vation for Care and Payment of the Department of  
12 Veterans Affairs.

13          (2) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall carry out  
14 the pilot program in not less than three but not  
15 more than five Veterans Integrated Service Net-  
16 works with a large number of covered veterans and  
17 varying degrees of urbanization, including—

18           (A) locations that are in rural or highly  
19 rural areas, as determined through the use of  
20 the Rural-Urban Commuting Areas coding sys-  
21 tem of the Department of Agriculture; and

22           (B) locations that are medically under-  
23 served.

24       (d) CASE MANAGER.—

1           (1) ASSIGNMENT OF CASE MANAGER.—In car-  
2       rying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall as-  
3       sign each covered veteran participating in the pilot  
4       program a case manager responsible for developing  
5       an individualized needs assessment for such veteran  
6       and, based on such assessment, a care coordination  
7       plan with defined treatment goals.

8           (2) ACCESSING SERVICES.—A case manager as-  
9       signed to a covered veteran under paragraph (1) is  
10      responsible for assisting such veteran in accessing  
11      services needed by such veteran and navigating the  
12      systems of care under the laws administered by the  
13      Secretary and under the Medicare program under  
14      title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
15      1395 et seq.).

16      (e) USE OF EXISTING MODELS.—In designing the  
17      pilot program, the Secretary shall, to the extent prac-  
18      ticable, use existing models, including value-based care  
19      models, used by commercial health care programs to im-  
20      prove access, health outcomes, quality, and customer expe-  
21      rience and lower per capita costs.

22      (f) CONTRACTING WITH PRIVATE SECTOR ENTI-  
23      TIES.—

24           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the  
25      greatest extent practicable, contract with private sec-

1       tor entities carrying out commercial health care pro-  
2       grams for assistance in designing, implementing,  
3       and managing care and benefits under the pilot pro-  
4       gram, to include providing care coordination.

5           (2) NOTIFICATION.—If the Secretary deter-  
6       mines that contracting with private sector entities  
7       under paragraph (1) is not practicable, the Sec-  
8       retary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’  
9       Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-  
10      erans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives—

11           (A) a notification of that determination;

12           (B) a description of the steps the Secretary  
13       has taken to contract with a private sector enti-  
14       ty;

15           (C) a justification for why the Secretary  
16       has determined that contracting with a private  
17       sector entity is not practicable; and

18           (D) a plan for how the Secretary will carry  
19       out the pilot program without contracting with  
20       a private sector entity, including through the  
21       use of employees of the Department of Veterans  
22       Affairs or other government agencies, nonprofit  
23       organizations, or other entities.

24      (g) METRICS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall track  
2       metrics under the pilot program, including the fol-  
3       lowing:

4           (A) The number of veterans participating  
5       in the pilot program, disaggregated by Veterans  
6       Integrated Service Network.

7           (B) Reliance on health care services ad-  
8       ministered by the Secretary.

9           (C) Reliance on health care services admin-  
10      istered under the Medicare program under title  
11      XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
12      1395 et seq.).

13          (D) Quality of care, including patient out-  
14      comes.

15          (E) Cost of care.

16          (F) Access to care, including under the  
17      designated access standards developed by the  
18      Secretary under section 1703B of title 38,  
19      United States Code.

20          (G) Patient satisfaction.

21          (H) Provider satisfaction.

22          (I) Care coordination, including timely in-  
23      formation sharing and medical documentation  
24      return.

1           (2) ELEMENTS.—In tracking metrics under  
2       paragraph (1), the Secretary shall track information  
3       relating to—

4           (A) whether care received by a covered vet-  
5       eran is related to a service-connected disability  
6       (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United  
7       States Code);

8           (B) the priority group under section  
9       1705(a) of title 38, United States Code,  
10      through which each covered veteran was en-  
11      rolled in the system of annual patient enroll-  
12      ment of the Department of Veterans Affairs  
13      under such section;

14          (C) the type of care and services provided  
15      to covered veterans; and

16          (D) the demographics of covered veterans  
17      participating in the pilot program, including  
18      age.

19      (h) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the  
20      pilot program for a three-year period beginning on the  
21      commencement of the pilot program.

22      (i) REPORTS.—

23          (1) DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, RE-  
24      SULTS, AND DESIGN OF PILOT PROGRAM.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently  
2 than quarterly during the two-year period be-  
3 ginning on the date of the enactment of this  
4 Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-  
5 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and  
6 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the  
7 House of Representatives a report on the devel-  
8 opment, implementation, results, and design of  
9 the pilot program, including information on the  
10 metrics tracked under subsection (g).

11 (B) FINAL DESIGN.—One of the reports  
12 required under subparagraph (A) shall contain  
13 a description of the final design of the pilot pro-  
14 gram.

15 (2) RESULTS OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Not later  
16 than one year after the submission of the final re-  
17 port under paragraph (1), and not less frequently  
18 than annually thereafter during the duration of the  
19 pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the  
20 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and  
21 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of  
22 Representatives a report on the results of the pilot  
23 program.

24 (3) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days  
25 before the termination of the pilot program, the Sec-

1       retary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans’  
2       Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Vet-  
3       erans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives a  
4       final report on the pilot program, which shall include  
5       the recommendation of the Secretary for whether the  
6       pilot program should be extended or made perma-  
7       nent.

8       (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9           (1) COVERED VETERAN.—The term “covered  
10       veteran” means a veteran who is enrolled in both the  
11       Medicare program under title XVIII of the Social  
12       Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.) and the sys-  
13       tem of annual patient enrollment of the Department  
14       of Veterans Affairs under section 1705(a) of title  
15       38, United States Code.

16           (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
17       the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.