

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 515

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2005

Mr. EVANS (for himself, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. REYES, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. KIND, Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CASE, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. HONDA, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. CARSON, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. STARK, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. GORDON, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. DELAURO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Assured Funding for
3 Veterans Health Care Act of 2005”.

4 **SEC. 2. ASSURANCE OF ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR VET-**
5 **ERANS HEALTH CARE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United
7 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
8 lowing new section:

9 **“§ 320. Assured funding for veterans health care**

10 “(a) For each fiscal year, the Secretary of the Treas-
11 ury shall make available to the Secretary of Veterans Af-
12 fairs the amount determined under subsection (b) with re-
13 spect to that fiscal year. Each such amount is available,
14 without fiscal year limitation, for the programs, functions,
15 and activities of the Veterans Health Administration, as
16 specified in subsection (c).

17 “(b)(1) The amount applicable to fiscal year 2007
18 under this subsection is the amount equal to 130 percent
19 of the amount obligated by the Department during fiscal
20 year 2005 for the purposes specified in subsection (c).

21 “(2) The amount applicable to any fiscal year after
22 fiscal year 2007 under this subsection is the amount equal
23 to the product of the following:

24 “(A) The sum of—

25 “(i) the number of veterans enrolled in the
26 Department health care system under section

1 1705 of this title as of July 1 preceding the be-
2 ginning of such fiscal year; and

3 “(ii) the number of persons eligible for
4 health care under chapter 17 of this title who
5 are not covered by clause (i) and who were pro-
6 vided hospital care or medical services under
7 such chapter at any time during the fiscal year
8 preceding such fiscal year.

9 “(B) The per capita baseline amount, as in-
10 creased from time to time pursuant to paragraph
11 (3)(B).

12 “(3)(A) For purposes of paragraph (2)(B), the term
13 ‘per capita baseline amount’ means the amount equal to—

14 “(i) the amount specified in paragraph (1), di-
15 vided by

16 “(ii) the number of veterans enrolled in the De-
17 partment health care system under section 1705 of
18 this title as of September 30, 2005.

19 “(B) With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary
20 shall provide a percentage increase (rounded to the near-
21 est dollar) in the per capita baseline amount equal to the
22 percentage by which—

23 “(i) the Consumer Price Index (all Urban Con-
24 sumers, United States City Average, Hospital and
25 related services, Seasonally Adjusted), published by

1 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of
2 Labor for the 12-month period ending on the June
3 30 preceding the beginning of the fiscal year for
4 which the increase is made, exceeds

5 “(ii) such Consumer Price Index for the 12-
6 month period preceeding the 12-month period de-
7 scribed in clause (i).

8 “(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the pur-
9 poses for which amounts made available pursuant to sub-
10 section (a) shall be all programs, functions, and activities
11 of the Veterans Health Administration.

12 “(2) Amounts made available pursuant to subsection
13 (a) are not available for—

14 “(A) construction, acquisition, or alteration of
15 medical facilities as provided in subchapter I of
16 chapter 81 of this title (other than for such repairs
17 as were provided for before the the date of the en-
18 actment of this section through the Medical Care ap-
19 propriation for the Department); or

20 “(B) grants under subchapter III of chapter 81
21 of this title.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
24 at the end the following new item:

“320. Assured funding for veterans health care.”.