

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2292

To prohibit the payment of bonuses to certain officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless fewer than 100,000 disability compensation claims are pending before the Department.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2007

Mr. HALL of New York (for himself, Mr. SPACE, Mr. DONNELLY, Mr. WALZ of Minnesota, Ms. HOOLEY, Ms. BEAN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. HARE, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. MAHONEY of Florida, Mr. ALTMIRE, and Mr. KAGEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit the payment of bonuses to certain officers of the Department of Veterans Affairs unless fewer than 100,000 disability compensation claims are pending before the Department.

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 "Pay Veterans First
5 Act".

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND PER-**
2 **FORMANCE BONUSES TO CERTAIN OFFICERS**
3 **OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) **LIMITATION ON PAYMENT OF BONUSES.**—For
5 fiscal year 2007, no bonus described in subsection (b) may
6 be paid to any officer of the Department of Veterans Af-
7 fairs who is appointed by the President, by and with the
8 consent of the Senate, or who is a senior politically ap-
9 pointed officer unless, at the time such payment is made,
10 fewer than 100,000 claims for disability compensation
11 under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, are
12 pending before the Department.

13 (b) **BONUSES DESCRIBED.**—A bonus described in
14 this subsection is any of the following:

15 (1) A performance award under section 5384 of
16 title 5, United States Code.

17 (2) A performance-based cash award under sec-
18 tion 4505a of such title.

19 (c) **DEFINITION OF SENIOR POLITICALLY AP-**
20 **POINTED OFFICER.**—For purposes of this section, the
21 term “senior politically appointed officer” means any offi-
22 cer who serves—

23 (1) as an Assistant Secretary;

24 (2) as a Deputy Under Secretary;

1 (3) in a Senior Executive Service position and
2 is not a career appointee as defined under section
3 3132(a)(4) of title 5, United States Code; or

4 (4) in a position of a confidential or policy-de-
5 termining character under schedule C of subpart C
6 of part 213 of title 5 of the Code of Federal Regula-
7 tions.

8 (d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORTS.—For any
9 fiscal quarter of fiscal year 2007 during which the per-
10 centage of claims for disability compensation processed by
11 the Department of Veterans Affairs that are disallowed
12 exceeds the percentage that is 10 percent higher than the
13 percentage of such claims that were disallowed during fis-
14 cal year 2006, the Comptroller General shall conduct an
15 audit of the Department’s processing of such claims to de-
16 termine the reason for the increase in the percentage of
17 disallowed claims and, not later than 30 days after the
18 last day of that fiscal quarter, shall submit to Congress
19 the results of such audit.

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