

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1618

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that caregivers for veterans with serious illnesses are eligible for assistance and support services provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2017

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify that caregivers for veterans with serious illnesses are eligible for assistance and support services provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

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 “Support our Services
5 to Veterans Caregivers Act” or the “S.O.S. Veterans
6 Caregivers Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVICES PROVIDED TO CARE-**
2 **GIVERS OF VETERANS.**

3 (a) CAREGIVERS OF VETERANS WITH SERIOUS ILL-
4 NESSES.—Paragraph (2)(B) of section 1720G(a) of title
5 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting “illness
6 or” after “serious”.

7 (b) ASSESSING CAREGIVER AND VETERAN BURDEN
8 AND SATISFACTION.—

9 (1) SURVEY.—Paragraph (3)(A)(ii) of such sec-
10 tion is amended—

11 (A) in subclause (IV), by striking “; and”
12 and inserting a semicolon;

13 (B) in subclause (V), by striking the period
14 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following new
16 subclause:

17 “(VI) not less than annually, a multi-
18 dimensional assessment to measure, in both ob-
19 jective and subjective terms, the burden and
20 strain felt by the family caregiver.”.

21 (2) REPORTS.—Section 101(c)(2)(B) of the
22 Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services
23 Act of 2010 (38 U.S.C. 1720G note) is amended—

24 (A) in clause (i), by striking “; and” and
25 inserting a semicolon;

1 (B) in clause (ii), by striking the period at
2 the end and inserting “; and”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following new
4 clause:

5 “(iii) a description of the satisfaction
6 experienced by caregivers and veterans
7 with respect to such program, including
8 any findings regarding whether such pro-
9 gram reduces the burden and strain felt by
10 caregivers.”.

11 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
12 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to services provided
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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