

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1844

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 2017

Mr. RUIZ (for himself and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use existing authorities to furnish health care at non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who live more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department that furnishes the care sought by the veteran.

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 Access to  
5       Community Care Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. USE OF EXISTING DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
2 **FAIRS AUTHORITIES TO FURNISH HEALTH**  
3 **CARE TO CERTAIN VETERANS WHO HAVE GE-**  
4 **OGRAPHIC INACCESSIBILITY TO CARE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
6 shall use the authorities specified in subsection (b) to fur-  
7 nish hospital care and medical services at non-Department  
8 of Veterans Affairs facilities to veterans who reside more  
9 than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical  
10 facility of the Department to the residence of the veteran  
11 that furnishes the hospital care or medical services that  
12 are sought by the veteran, including a community-based  
13 outpatient clinic.

14 (b) AUTHORITIES.—The authorities specified in this  
15 subsection are the following:

16 (1) Section 1703 of title 38, United States  
17 Code, relating to contracts for the furnishing of hos-  
18 pital care and medical services through non-Depart-  
19 ment facilities.

20 (2) Section 101 of the Veterans Access, Choice,  
21 and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–  
22 146; 128 Stat. 175), relating to the furnishing of  
23 hospital care and medical services to veterans  
24 through non-Department entities if the veteran is  
25 unable to schedule an appointment for the receipt of

1 such care or services within the wait-time goals of  
2 the Veterans Health Administration.

3 (3) Any other authority under the laws admin-  
4 istered by the Secretary relating to the furnishing of  
5 hospital care and medical services at non-Depart-  
6 ment facilities.

7 (c) HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL SERVICES.—In  
8 this section, the terms “hospital care” and “medical serv-  
9 ices” have the meanings given such terms in section 1701  
10 of title 38, United States Code.

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