117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7508

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a program
for the recruitment, retention, and training of providers of specialty
care for women veterans, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2022

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

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A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out
a program for the recruitment, retention, and training
of providers of specialty care for women veterans, 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 "Improving Specialty

5 Care for Women Veterans Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-FAIRS PROGRAM ON RECRUITMENT, RETEN-TION, AND TRAINING OF SPECIALTY CARE PROVIDERS FOR WOMEN VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a program, including a pilot program, for the recruitment, retention, and training of providers of specialty care for former members of the Armed Forces who are women.

(b) PARTICIPANTS.—Participation in a program under subsection (a) shall be available to the following:

(1) Individuals serving in a medical internship or residency program.

(2) Nurses and physicians who are covered providers.

(c) SPECIALTY CARE AREAS; INCENTIVES FOR RECRUITMENT.—In carrying out a program under subsection (a), the Secretary may—

(1) target for recruitment individuals with expertise in such specialty care areas as the Secretary may determine appropriate for purposes of the program; and

(2) offer to individuals targeted for recruitment under the program such incentives as the Secretary determines appropriate to facilitate the recruitment and retention of such individuals, including mone-

1 tary incentives and incentives relating to the reduc-
2 tion of education debt under the Education Debt Re-
3 duction program authorized under section 7681 of
4 title 38, United States Code.

5 (d) TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR PROVIDERS.—

6 (1) TRAINING AND SUPPORT.—In carrying out
7 a program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
8 furnish to each individual recruited under the pro-
9 gram such training and support as the Secretary de-
10 termines necessary with respect to the unique needs
11 of women veterans, including with respect to mental
12 and behavioral health conditions relating to the serv-
13 ice of women veterans in the Armed Forces.

14 (2) CONTRACTS WITH NON-DEPARTMENT ENTI-
15 TIES.—The Secretary may only enter into a contract
16 with a non-Department entity for such entity to pro-
17 vide training or support under paragraph (1) if, not
18 later than 30 days after the date on which the Sec-
19 retary enters into the contract, the Secretary sub-
20 mits to the Committees on Veterans Affairs of the
21 House of Representatives and the Senate a notifica-
22 tion regarding the contract.

23 (e) RELATIONSHIP TO APPOINTMENT SCHED-
24 ULING.—The Secretary shall—

1 (1) make available to veterans enrolled in the

2 patient enrollment system of the Department under

3 section 1705 of title 38, United States Code, infor-

4 mation indicating whether a covered provider has

5 participated in a program under subsection (a); and

6 (2) take such steps as may be necessary to im-

7 prove the timeliness of appointments scheduled by

8 such veterans with covered providers who have so

9 participated, including by waiving requirements of

10 the Department relating to wait times for such ap-

11 pointments.

12 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

13 (1) The term "covered provider" means a

14 health care provider—

15 (A) who is an employee of the Department

16 of Veterans Affairs; or

17 (B) who provides medical care or services

18 to veterans under the Veterans Community

19 Care program.

20 (2) The term "Veterans Community Care pro-

21 gram" means the program of the Department of

22 Veterans Affairs under section 1703 of title 38,

23 United States Code.

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