

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5755

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the assignment of patient advocates at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 27, 2021

Mr. MOOLENAAR (for himself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mrs. McCLAIN, and Ms. SLOTKIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the assignment of patient advocates at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 Patient Advo-
5 cacy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PATIENT ADVOCATES AT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF**
7 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7309A of title 38, United
9 States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as
2 subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
4 lowing new subsection (e):

5 “(e) NUMBER OF PATIENT ADVOCATES.—Beginning
6 on the date that is one year after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this subsection, the Director shall ensure that—

8 “(1) there is not fewer than one patient advo-
9 cate for every 13,500 veterans enrolled in the system
10 of annual patient enrollment established and oper-
11 ated under section 1705 of this title; and

12 “(2) highly rural veterans may access the serv-
13 ices of patient advocates, including, to the extent
14 practicable, with respect to assigning patient advo-
15 cates to rural community-based outpatient clinics.”.

16 (b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than two years after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller
18 General of the United States shall submit to the Commit-
19 tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives
20 and the Senate a report evaluating the implementation by
21 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of section 7309A of title
22 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

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