

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7277

To improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs identifies health care providers that are not eligible to participate in the Veterans Community Care Program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2022

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

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## A BILL

To improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs identifies health care providers that are not eligible to participate in the Veterans Community Care Program.

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 Oversight  
5 of the Veterans Community Care Providers Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS**  
2 **THAT ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN**  
3 **VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.**

4 (a) PLAN.—

5 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Beginning not later than  
6 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,  
7 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, acting through  
8 the Under Secretary for Health, shall carry out a  
9 plan to improve the methods by which the Secretary  
10 identifies health care providers that are not eligible  
11 to participate in the Veterans Community Care Pro-  
12 gram.

13 (2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—The plan under  
14 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

15 (A) Modifying the standard operating pro-  
16 cedures of the Office of Community Care of the  
17 Veterans Health Administration regarding the  
18 exclusion of health care providers from partici-  
19 pating in the Veterans Community Care Pro-  
20 gram to require the automated continuous  
21 matching of health care providers in the Pro-  
22 vider Profile Management System of the Vet-  
23 erans Health Administration, or such successor  
24 system, with covered data systems using mul-  
25 tiple unique identifiers, including taxpayer iden-

1           tification number, national provider identifier,  
2           Social Security number, and date of birth.

3           (B) A fraud risk analysis conducted by the  
4           Office of Community Care regarding the exclu-  
5           sion of health care providers from participating  
6           in the Veterans Community Care Program that  
7           includes—

8                   (i) an assessment of the likelihood and  
9                   impact of inherent fraud risks relating to  
10                  the self-certification of State licenses and  
11                  addresses provided by health care pro-  
12                  viders;

13                  (ii) a determination of the fraud risk  
14                  tolerance; and

15                  (iii) an examination of the suitability  
16                  of existing fraud controls.

17           (C) Any other matters the Under Sec-  
18           retary determines will improve the oversight of  
19           health care providers participating in the Vet-  
20           erans Community Care Program.

21           (b) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than December 31,  
22           2022, the Secretary shall certify to the Committees on  
23           Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the  
24           Senate that the Secretary has implemented the plan under  
25           subsection (a).

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than January 31, 2023, the  
2 Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Af-  
3 fairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a  
4 report that—

5 (1) describes the progress the Under Secretary  
6 has made in carrying out the plan under subsection  
7 (a); and

8 (2) includes recommendations for legislative ac-  
9 tion to further improve the methods by which the  
10 Secretary identifies health care providers that are  
11 not eligible to participate in the Veterans Commu-  
12 nity Care Program.

13 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) The term “covered data systems” means  
15 the following:

16 (A) The List of Excluded Individuals/Enti-  
17 ties of the Office of Inspector General of the  
18 Department of Health and Human Services.

19 (B) The System for Award Management  
20 Exclusions list described in part 9 of title 48,  
21 Code of Federal Regulations, and part 180 of  
22 title 2 of such Code, or successor regulations.

23 (C) The monthly deactivation file of the  
24 National Plan and Provider Enumeration Sys-

1           tem of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid  
2           Services.

3           (D) The National Practitioner Data Bank  
4           established pursuant to the Health Care Quality  
5           Improvement Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11101 et  
6           seq.).

7           (2) The term “Veterans Community Care Pro-  
8           gram” means the program established under section  
9           1703 of title 38, United States Code.

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