

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1496

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the access to child care for certain veterans receiving health care at a facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2015

Mr. HIGGINS (for himself and Mr. ISRAEL) 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 access to child care for certain veterans receiving health care at a facility 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. ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN**
4 **VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 17 of
6 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
7 end the following new section:

1 **“§ 1730B. Assistance for child care**

2 “(a) **AUTHORITY.**—Beginning January 1, 2016, sub-
3 ject to subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide assist-
4 ance to qualified veterans described in subsection (c) to
5 obtain child care so that such veterans can receive health
6 care services described in subsection (c).

7 “(b) **LIMITATION ON PERIOD OF PAYMENTS.**—The
8 Secretary may only provide assistance under subsection
9 (a) to a qualified veteran for receipt of child care during
10 the period that the qualified veteran—

11 “(1) receives the types of health care services
12 described in subsection (c) at a facility of the De-
13 partment; and

14 “(2) requires travel to and return from such fa-
15 cility for the receipt of such health care services.

16 “(c) **QUALIFIED VETERANS.**—For purposes of this
17 section, a qualified veteran is a veteran who is—

18 “(1) the primary caretaker of a child; and

19 “(2)(A) receiving from the Department—

20 “(i) regular mental health care services;

21 “(ii) intensive mental health care services;

22 or

23 “(iii) such other intensive health care serv-
24 ices that the Secretary determines that provi-
25 sion of assistance to the veteran to obtain child

1 care would improve access to such health care
2 services by the veteran; or

3 “(B) in need of regular or intensive mental
4 health care services from the Department, and but
5 for lack of child care services, would receive such
6 health care services from the Department.

7 “(d) FORMS OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.—(1)
8 Child care assistance under this section may include the
9 following:

10 “(A) Stipends for the payment of child care of-
11 fered by licensed child care centers (either directly
12 or through a voucher program) which shall be, to
13 the extent practicable, modeled after the Depart-
14 ment of Veterans Affairs Child Care Subsidy Pro-
15 gram established pursuant to section 590(g) of title
16 40.

17 “(B) Direct provision of child care at an on-site
18 facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

19 “(C) Payments to private child care agencies.

20 “(D) Collaboration with facilities or programs
21 of other Federal departments or agencies.

22 “(E) Such other forms of assistance as the Sec-
23 retary considers appropriate.

1 “(2) In the case that child care assistance under this
2 section is provided as a stipend under paragraph (1)(A),
3 such stipend shall cover the full cost of such child care.

4 “(e) FUNDS.—The Secretary shall carry out this sec-
5 tion using funds made available to the facility of the De-
6 partment that provides the health care services for which
7 assistance under subsection (a) is provided. The Secretary
8 shall ensure that each administrator of such a facility has
9 discretion to carry out such assistance in a manner that
10 is appropriate for the facility and in accordance with this
11 section.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
13 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
14 after the item relating to section 1730A the following new
15 item:

“1730B. Assistance for child care.”.

16 (c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Effective January 1,
17 2016, section 205 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omni-
18 bus Health Services Act of 2010 (38 U.S.C. 1710 note)
19 is repealed.

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