

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2312

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for covered agreements and contracts between the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and eligible academic affiliates for the mutually beneficial coordination, use, or exchange of health-care resources, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2017

Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. MCGOVERN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for covered agreements and contracts between the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and eligible academic affiliates for the mutually beneficial coordination, use, or exchange of health-care resources, 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 “Enhanced Veteran
5 Healthcare Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. COVERED AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS FOR MU-**
2 **TUALLY BENEFICIAL COORDINATION, USE,**
3 **OR EXCHANGE OF HEALTH-CARE RE-**
4 **SOURCES.**

5 Section 8153 of title 38, United States Code, is
6 amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, in-
9 cluding pursuant to paragraph (4)” before the
10 period at the end;

11 (B) by adding at the end the following new
12 paragraph:

13 “(4) In carrying out paragraph (1), in order to carry
14 out more effectively the primary function of the Veterans
15 Health Administration and notwithstanding any other
16 provision of this section, the Secretary shall seek to enter
17 into covered agreements and contracts for the mutually
18 beneficial coordination, use, or exchange of use of covered
19 health-care resources of the Department with eligible aca-
20 demic affiliates with the goal of improving the access to,
21 and quality of, the hospital care and medical services fur-
22 nished by the Department.”; and

23 (C) in paragraph (3)(A), by adding at the
24 end the following new sentence: “In the case of
25 a covered agreement or contract under para-
26 graph (4) for the coordination, use, or exchange

1 of a clinical service, the use of medical equip-
2 ment or space, research, the construction or
3 lease of clinical space, the use of any full-time
4 equivalent employee of the Department or a
5 contractor of the Department or the use of any
6 full-time equivalent employee jointly hired by
7 the Department and an eligible academic affil-
8 iate, the Secretary shall make arrangements for
9 the acquisition of the resource by using proce-
10 dures other than competitive procedures.”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 section:

13 “(h) In this section:

14 “(1) The term ‘covered agreement or contract’
15 means a partnership or contracts between the Sec-
16 retary and an eligible academic affiliate for the mu-
17 tually beneficial coordination, use, or exchange of
18 use of covered health-care resources.

19 “(2) The term ‘covered health-care resource’
20 means, with respect to covered agreements or con-
21 tracts, any clinical service, direct patient care, space
22 (whether leased or constructed) used for clinical
23 services or research, and employees responsible for
24 providing direct patient care.

1 “(3) The term ‘eligible academic affiliate’
2 means an accredited school of allopathic medicine,
3 osteopathic medicine, or dentistry, a university
4 health sciences center, or a teaching hospital affili-
5 ated with such a school or center.”.

○