

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 418

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to improve access to supportive services and community coordination for families of disabled veterans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2017

Mrs. LAWRENCE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to improve access to supportive services and community coordination for families of disabled veterans.

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 “Early Intervention for
5 Veterans and their Families Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM FOR GREATER DIRECT ACCESS TO**
2 **SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND COMMUNITY CO-**
3 **ORDINATION FOR DISABLED VETERANS FAM-**
4 **ILIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than 180
6 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a three-year pilot
8 program with community partners to provide intensive
9 community care coordination and supportive services to
10 disabled veteran families who lack access to direct wellness
11 services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs
12 or other entities.

13 (b) AGREEMENTS WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS.—
14 In carrying out the pilot program under subsection (a),
15 the Secretary shall enter into partnership agreements with
16 community partners using a competitive and merit-based
17 award process for individual grants and for multi-service
18 site grants to test service delivery efficiencies and generate
19 best practices.

20 (c) COMMUNITY CARE COORDINATION AND SUP-
21 PORTIVE SERVICES.—The community care coordination
22 and supportive services referred to in subsection (a) are
23 the following:

24 (1) Services provided by a community partner
25 to improve the well-being and address the needs of
26 disabled veteran families who otherwise lack access

1 to adequate direct wellness services provided by the
2 Department of Veterans Affairs or other entities.
3 Such assistance and services may include the fol-
4 lowing:

5 (A) Care coordination and case manage-
6 ment services.

7 (B) Outreach services.

8 (C) Assistance in obtaining any benefits
9 from the Department which the veteran may be
10 eligible to receive, including vocational and re-
11 habilitation counseling, employment and train-
12 ing service, educational assistance, and health
13 care services.

14 (D) Assistance in obtaining and coordi-
15 nating the provision of other public benefits
16 provided by department or agencies of the Fed-
17 eral Government or a State or local government
18 or by community partners, including with re-
19 spect to—

20 (i) marriage counseling;

21 (ii) services for children;

22 (iii) suicide prevention;

23 (iv) substance abuse awareness and
24 treatment;

- 1 (v) mental health awareness and
2 treatment;
- 3 (vi) financial counseling;
- 4 (vii) anger management counseling;
- 5 (viii) domestic violence awareness and
6 prevention;
- 7 (ix) employment assistance;
- 8 (x) transportation services;
- 9 (xi) child care;
- 10 (xii) housing counseling;
- 11 (xiii) preparing and updating family
12 care plans;
- 13 (xiv) development of strategies for liv-
14 ing with a veteran with post-traumatic
15 stress disorder or traumatic brain injury;
- 16 (xv) accessing emergency financial as-
17 sistance through philanthropic efforts; and
- 18 (xvi) other services that are deter-
19 mined by the Secretary to be appropriate
20 to improve the well-being and address the
21 unique needs of disabled veteran families
22 who lack access to such direct wellness
23 services.
- 24 (2) Providing the direct services specified in
25 paragraph (1)(D) that are necessary to improve the

1 well-being and address the needs of the disabled vet-
2 eran families but are otherwise unavailable through
3 existing public or private programs.

4 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) The term “community partner” means a
6 private nonprofit organization.

7 (2) The term “disabled veteran” means a
8 United States citizen or United States national
9 who—

10 (A) was honorably discharged from the
11 Armed Forces; and

12 (B) is entitled to disability compensation
13 (or who but for the receipt of military retired
14 pay would be entitled to disability compensa-
15 tion) under laws administered by the Secretary
16 of Veterans Affairs or was discharged or re-
17 leased from active duty in the Armed Forces
18 because of a service-connected disability under
19 chapter 61 of title 10, United States Code.

20 (3) The term “disabled veterans family” means
21 the dependents of a disabled veteran.

22 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Vet-
24 erans Affairs \$2,000,000 to carry out the pilot program

1 under subsection (a) for each fiscal year in which the Sec-
2 retary carries out such pilot program.

3 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days before the
4 completion of the pilot program under subsection (a), the
5 Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Af-
6 fairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
7 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the re-
8 sults of the pilot program, including the number of dis-
9 abled veteran families served and service linkages or refer-
10 rals and a description and assessment of the effectiveness
11 and achievements of the pilot program with respect to
12 services and treatments and mitigation of risks, including
13 homelessness, unemployment and suicide as well as rec-
14 ommended best practices for improving access to sup-
15 portive services and coordination of care for disabled vet-
16 eran families.

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