

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5770

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a dental insurance plan to veterans and survivors and dependents of veterans.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2016

Miss RICE of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a dental insurance plan to veterans and survivors and dependents of 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 “Department of Vet-  
5 erans Affairs Dental Insurance Reauthorization Act of  
6 2016”.

7 **SEC. 2. DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN FOR VETERANS AND**  
8 **SURVIVORS AND DEPENDENTS OF VETERANS.**

9 (a) DENTAL INSURANCE PLAN.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17  
2           of title 38, United States Code, is amended by in-  
3           serting after section 1712B the following new sec-  
4           tion:

5   **“§ 1712C. Dental insurance plan for veterans and sur-**  
6                           **vivors and dependents of veterans**

7           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
8           and administer a dental insurance plan for veterans and  
9           survivors and dependents of veterans described in sub-  
10          section (b).

11          “(b) COVERED VETERANS AND SURVIVORS AND DE-  
12          PENDENTS.—The veterans and survivors and dependents  
13          of veterans described in this subsection are as follows:

14                  “(1) Any veteran who is enrolled in the system  
15                  of annual patient enrollment under section 1705 of  
16                  this title.

17                  “(2) Any survivor or dependent of a veteran  
18                  who is eligible for medical care under section 1781  
19                  of this title.

20          “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall contract  
21          with a dental insurer to administer the dental insurance  
22          plan under this section.

23          “(d) BENEFITS.—The dental insurance plan under  
24          this section shall provide such benefits for dental care and  
25          treatment as the Secretary considers appropriate for the

1 dental insurance plan, including diagnostic services, pre-  
2 ventative services, endodontics and other restorative serv-  
3 ices, surgical services, and emergency services.

4 “(e) ENROLLMENT.—(1) Enrollment in the dental in-  
5 surance plan under this section shall be voluntary.

6 “(2) Enrollment in the dental insurance plan shall  
7 be for such minimum period as the Secretary shall pre-  
8 scribe for purposes of this section.

9 “(f) PREMIUMS.—(1) Premiums for coverage under  
10 the dental insurance plan under this section shall be in  
11 such amount or amounts as the Secretary shall prescribe  
12 to cover all costs associated with carrying out this section.

13 “(2) The Secretary shall adjust the premiums pay-  
14 able under this section for coverage under the dental in-  
15 surance plan on an annual basis. Each individual covered  
16 by the dental insurance plan at the time of such an adjust-  
17 ment shall be notified of the amount and effective date  
18 of such adjustment.

19 “(3) Each individual covered by the dental insurance  
20 plan shall pay the entire premium for coverage under the  
21 dental insurance plan, in addition to the full cost of any  
22 copayments.

23 “(g) VOLUNTARY DISENROLLMENT.—(1) With re-  
24 spect to enrollment in the dental insurance plan under this  
25 section, the Secretary shall—

1           “(A) permit the voluntary disenrollment of an  
2 individual in the dental insurance plan if the  
3 disenrollment occurs during the 30-day period begin-  
4 ning on the date of the enrollment of the individual  
5 in the dental insurance plan; and

6           “(B) permit the voluntary disenrollment of an  
7 individual in the dental insurance plan for such cir-  
8 cumstances as the Secretary shall prescribe for pur-  
9 poses of this subsection, but only to the extent such  
10 disenrollment does not jeopardize the fiscal integrity  
11 of the dental insurance plan.

12           “(2) The circumstances prescribed under paragraph  
13 (1)(B) shall include the following:

14           “(A) If an individual enrolled in the dental in-  
15 surance plan relocates to a location outside the juris-  
16 diction of the dental insurance plan that prevents  
17 use of the benefits under the dental insurance plan.

18           “(B) If an individual enrolled in the dental in-  
19 surance plan is prevented by a serious medical con-  
20 dition from being able to obtain benefits under the  
21 dental insurance plan.

22           “(C) Such other circumstances as the Secretary  
23 shall prescribe for purposes of this subsection.

24           “(3) The Secretary shall establish procedures for de-  
25 terminations on the permissibility of voluntary

1 disenrollments under paragraph (1)(B). Such procedures  
2 shall ensure timely determinations on the permissibility of  
3 such disenrollments.

4 “(h) RELATIONSHIP TO DENTAL CARE PROVIDED BY  
5 SECRETARY.—Nothing in this section shall affect the re-  
6 sponsibility of the Secretary to provide dental care under  
7 section 1712 of this title, and the participation of an indi-  
8 vidual in the dental insurance plan under this section shall  
9 not affect the entitlement of the individual to outpatient  
10 dental services and treatment, and related dental appli-  
11 ances, under such section 1712.

12 “(i) REGULATIONS.—The dental insurance plan  
13 under this section shall be administered under such regu-  
14 lations as the Secretary shall prescribe.

15 “(j) TERMINATION.—This section terminates on De-  
16 cember 31, 2021.”.

17 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
18 tions at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is  
19 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
20 tion 1712B the following new item:

“1712C. Dental insurance plan for veterans and survivors and dependents of  
veterans.”.

21 (b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 510 of the Care-  
23 givers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of

1       2010 (Public Law 111–163; 38 U.S.C. 1712 note)  
2       is repealed.

3               (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
4       tents for the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus  
5       Health Services Act of 2010 is amended by striking  
6       the item relating to section 510.

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