

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8412

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish goals for the timely delivery of medical care and appointments, to make publicly available certain information regarding wait times under the community care program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Ms. BROWNLEY of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish goals for the timely delivery of medical care and appointments, to make publicly available certain information regarding wait times under the community care program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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 “VA Community Care
5 Wait Time Transparency Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS GOAL FOR**
2 **TIMELY DELIVERY OF APPOINTMENTS.**

3 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a
4 goal for the maximum number of calendar days between
5 the date on which a veteran requests an appointment for
6 medical care and the date on which such appointment oc-
7 curs. Such goal shall be the equivalent of the wait time
8 access standard in effect under section 1703B of title 38,
9 United States Code, and shall apply—

10 (1) to medical care furnished by Department of
11 Veterans Affairs providers and medical care fur-
12 nished by the Department of Veterans Affairs
13 through a non-Department provider; and

14 (2) with respect to veterans who are considered
15 new patients and veterans who are considered re-
16 turning patients.

17 **SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TRANS-**
18 **PARENCY REGARDING WAIT TIMES UNDER**
19 **COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM.**

20 (a) PUBLICATION OF DATA.—Not later than 90 days
21 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
22 of Veterans Affairs shall make publicly available on an ap-
23 propriate website of the Department of Veterans Affairs
24 the following information:

25 (1) The average wait times for new and return-
26 ing patients seeking care under the community care

1 program of the Department, determined using the
2 same metrics used to determine the published aver-
3 age wait times for care furnished directly by Depart-
4 ment medical facilities.

5 (2) The percentage of appointments for care
6 under the community care program that occur with-
7 in the number of days specified for the wait time ac-
8 cess standard applicable to Department of Veterans
9 Affairs providers, as in effect under section 1703B
10 of title 38, United States Code.

11 (b) PRESENTATION OF DATA.—Data made available
12 under subsection (a) shall—

13 (1) be presented in a searchable format, by zip
14 code and by medical specialty; and

15 (2) be presented alongside comparable data for
16 all Department medical centers and all medical spe-
17 cialties.

○