

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1779

To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medicines relating to preventive health services, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 20, 2021

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate copayments by the Department of Veterans Affairs for medicines relating to preventive health services, 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 “Veterans Preventive  
5       Health Coverage Fairness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT TO PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES**  
2 **FURNISHED BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
3 **AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) **ELIMINATION OF MEDICATION COPAYMENTS.—**  
5 Section 1722A(a)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is  
6 amended—

- 7 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “or”;
- 8 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period  
9 at the end and inserting “; or”; and
- 10 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
11 paragraph:

12 “(E) to medication that is or is part of a pre-  
13 ventive health service.”.

14 (b) **ELIMINATION OF HOSPITAL CARE AND MEDICAL**  
15 **SERVICES COPAYMENTS.—**Section 1710 of such title is  
16 amended—

- 17 (1) in subsection (f)—
- 18 (A) by redesignating paragraph (5) as  
19 paragraph (6); and
- 20 (B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the  
21 following new paragraph (5):

22 “(5) A veteran shall not be liable to the United States  
23 under this subsection for any amounts for preventive  
24 health services.”; and

- 25 (2) in subsection (g)(3), by adding at the end  
26 the following new subparagraph:

1 “(C) Preventive health services.”.

2 (c) DEFINITION.—Section 1701(9) of such title is  
3 amended—

4 (1) in subparagraph (K), by striking “; and”  
5 and inserting a semicolon;

6 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (L) as sub-  
7 paragraph (O); and

8 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (K) the fol-  
9 lowing new subparagraphs:

10 “(L) evidence-based items or services that  
11 have in effect a rating of ‘A’ or ‘B’ in the cur-  
12 rent recommendations of the United States Pre-  
13 ventive Services Task Force;

14 “(M) immunizations that have in effect a  
15 recommendation from the Advisory Committee  
16 on Immunization Practices of the Centers for  
17 Disease Control and Prevention with respect to  
18 the individual involved;

19 “(N) with respect to services for women,  
20 the preventive care and screenings provided for  
21 in the Health Resources and Services Adminis-  
22 tration Women’s Preventive Services Guidelines  
23 in effect as of the date of the enactment of the

- 1 Veterans Preventive Health Coverage Fairness
- 2 Act, or successor similar guidelines; and”.

