

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1863

To establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a continuing medical education program for licensed medical professionals to increase knowledge and recognition of medical conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 19, 2013

Mr. BROWN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a continuing medical education program for licensed medical professionals to increase knowledge and recognition of medical conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, 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. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CON-**
4 **TINUING MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL EDUCA-**
5 **TION PROGRAM.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTINUING MEDICAL
7 EDUCATION PROGRAM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
2 Affairs shall establish a continuing medical edu-
3 cation program for medical professionals with the
4 goal of—

5 (A) increasing knowledge and recognition
6 of medical conditions common to veterans and
7 family members of veterans; and

8 (B) improving outreach to veterans and
9 family members of veterans.

10 (2) EDUCATION PROVIDED.—The program shall
11 include education on the following:

12 (A) Dealing with patients who are veterans
13 or family members of veterans.

14 (B) Identifying and treating common men-
15 tal and physical conditions of veterans and fam-
16 ily members of veterans.

17 (C) Programs and benefits available to vet-
18 erans and family members of veterans through
19 the following organizations:

20 (i) The Department of Veterans Af-
21 fairs.

22 (ii) The Department of Labor.

23 (iii) Such other Federal agencies and
24 non-Federal organizations as the Secretary
25 considers appropriate.

1 (D) The health care system of the Depart-
2 ment of Veterans Affairs.

3 (E) Such other matters as the Secretary
4 considers appropriate.

5 (b) DURATION OF PROGRAM.—The program shall be
6 carried out during the five-year period beginning on the
7 date of the enactment of this Act.

8 (c) ADMINISTRATION OF PROGRAM.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
10 out the program on an Internet website of the De-
11 partment of Veterans Affairs.

12 (2) CURRICULUM AND CREDIT PROVIDED.—The
13 Secretary shall determine the curriculum of the pro-
14 gram and the number of hours of credit to provide
15 to participating medical professionals for continuing
16 medical education.

17 (3) ACCREDITATION.—The Secretary shall en-
18 sure that the program is accredited in as many
19 States as practicable.

20 (4) CONSISTENCY WITH EXISTING RULES.—The
21 Secretary shall ensure that the program is consistent
22 with the rules and regulations of the following:

23 (A) The medical licensing agency of each
24 State in which the program is accredited.

1 (B) Such medical credentialing organiza-
2 tions as the Secretary considers appropriate.

3 (5) USER COST.—The Secretary shall carry out
4 the program at no cost to participating medical pro-
5 fessionals.

6 (d) MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL DEFINED.—In this sec-
7 tion, the term “medical professional” means any of the
8 following individuals who are licensed by an appropriate
9 medical authority in the United States and in good stand-
10 ing:

11 (1) A doctor.

12 (2) A nurse.

13 (3) A physician assistant.

14 (4) A psychologist.

15 (5) A psychiatrist.

16 (6) Such other individuals as the Secretary con-
17 siders appropriate.

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