

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2243

To expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 10, 2014

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

A BILL

To expand eligibility for the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to expand benefits available to participants under such program, to enhance special compensation for members of the uniformed services who require assistance in everyday life, 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 “Military and Veteran
5 Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN**
2 **AND SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER FAMILY**
3 **CAREGIVER PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF**
4 **VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM.—

6 (1) EXPANSION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Subsection
7 (a)(2)(B) of section 1720G of title 38, United States
8 Code, is amended by striking “on or after September
9 11, 2001”.

10 (2) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR ILL-
11 NESS.—Such subsection is further amended by in-
12 serting “or illness” after “serious injury”.

13 (3) EXPANSION OF NEEDED SERVICES IN ELI-
14 GIBILITY CRITERIA.—Subsection (a)(2)(C) of such
15 section is amended—

16 (A) in clause (ii), by striking “; or” and in-
17 serting a semicolon;

18 (B) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause
19 (iv); and

20 (C) by inserting after clause (ii) the fol-
21 lowing new clause (iii):

22 “(iii) a need for regular or extensive in-
23 struction or supervision in completing two or
24 more instrumental activities of daily living; or”.

25 (4) EXPANSION OF SERVICES PROVIDED.—Sub-
26 section (a)(3)(A)(ii) of such section is amended—

1 (A) in subclause (IV), by striking “; and”
 2 and inserting a semicolon;

3 (B) in subclause (V), by striking the period
 4 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following new
 6 subclauses:

7 “(VI) child care services or a monthly sti-
 8 pend for such services if such services are not
 9 readily available from the Department;

10 “(VII) financial planning services relating
 11 to the needs of injured and ill veterans and
 12 their caregivers; and

13 “(VIII) legal services, including legal ad-
 14 vice and consultation, relating to the needs of
 15 injured and ill veterans and their caregivers.”.

16 (5) EXPANSION OF RESPITE CARE PROVIDED.—
 17 Subsection (a)(3)(B) of such section is amended by
 18 striking “shall be” and all that follows through the
 19 period at the end and inserting “shall—

20 “(i) be medically and age-appropriate;

21 “(ii) include in-home care; and

22 “(iii) include peer-oriented group activities.”.

23 (6) MODIFICATION OF STIPEND CALCULA-
 24 TION.—Subsection (a)(3)(C) of such section is
 25 amended—

1 (A) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause
2 (iv); and

3 (B) by inserting after clause (ii) the fol-
4 lowing new clause (iii):

5 “(iii) In determining the amount and degree of per-
6 sonal services provided under clause (i) with respect to an
7 eligible veteran whose need for personal care services is
8 based in whole or in part on a need for supervision or
9 protection under paragraph (2)(C)(ii) or regular instruc-
10 tion or supervision in completing tasks under paragraph
11 (2)(C)(iii), the Secretary shall take into account the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(I) The assessment by the family caregiver of
14 the needs and limitations of the veteran.

15 “(II) The extent to which the veteran can func-
16 tion safely and independently in the absence of such
17 supervision, protection, or instruction.

18 “(III) The amount of time required for the
19 family caregiver to provide such supervision, protec-
20 tion, or instruction to the veteran.”.

21 (7) PERIODIC EVALUATION OF NEED FOR CER-
22 TAIN SERVICES.—Subsection (a)(3) of such section
23 is amended by adding at the end the following new
24 subparagraph:

1 “(D) In providing instruction, preparation, and
2 training under subparagraph (A)(i)(I) and technical
3 support under subparagraph (A)(i)(II) to each fam-
4 ily caregiver who is approved as a provider of per-
5 sonal care services for an eligible veteran under
6 paragraph (6), the Secretary shall periodically evalu-
7 ate the needs of the eligible veteran and the skills
8 of the family caregiver of such veteran to determine
9 if additional instruction, preparation, training, or
10 technical support under those subparagraphs is nec-
11 essary.”.

12 (b) REPEAL OF GENERAL CAREGIVER SUPPORT PRO-
13 GRAM.—Such section is amended by striking subsection
14 (b).

15 (c) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO CAREGIVERS OF
16 CERTAIN VETERANS.—Such section is further amended
17 by inserting after subsection (a) the following new sub-
18 section (b):

19 “(b) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO CAREGIVERS OF
20 CERTAIN VETERANS.—(1) In providing assistance under
21 subsection (a) to family caregivers of eligible veterans who
22 were discharged from the Armed Forces before September
23 11, 2001, the Secretary may enter into memoranda of un-
24 derstanding with agencies, States, and other entities to
25 provide such assistance to such veterans.

1 “(2) The Secretary may provide assistance under this
2 subsection only if such assistance is reasonably accessible
3 to the veteran and is substantially equivalent or better in
4 quality to similar services provided by the Department.

5 “(3) The Secretary may provide fair compensation to
6 entities that provide assistance under this subsection pur-
7 suant to memoranda of understanding entered into under
8 paragraph (1).

9 “(4) In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary
10 shall work with the interagency working group on policies
11 relating to caregivers of veterans and members of the
12 Armed Forces established under section 7 of the Military
13 and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of
14 2014.”.

15 (d) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF FAMILY MEM-
16 BER.—Subparagraph (B) of subsection (d)(3) of such sec-
17 tion is amended to read as follows:

18 “(B) is not a member of the family of the
19 veteran and does not provide care to the vet-
20 eran on a professional basis.”.

21 (e) MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF PERSONAL
22 CARE SERVICES.—Subsection (d)(4) of such section is
23 amended—

24 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “inde-
25 pendent”;

1 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as sub-
2 paragraph (D); and

3 (3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the fol-
4 lowing new subparagraphs:

5 “(B) Supervision or protection based on
6 symptoms or residuals of neurological or other
7 impairment or injury.

8 “(C) Regular or extensive instruction or
9 supervision in completing two or more instru-
10 mental activities of daily living.”.

11 (f) ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section
13 101(c) of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus
14 Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163;
15 38 U.S.C. 1720G note) is amended to read as fol-
16 lows:

17 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each report required by
18 paragraph (1) after the date of the enactment of the
19 Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improve-
20 ment Act of 2014 shall include the following with re-
21 spect to the program of comprehensive assistance for
22 family caregivers required by subsection (a)(1) of
23 such section 1720G:

24 “(A) The number of family caregivers that
25 received assistance under such program.

1 “(B) The cost to the Department of pro-
2 viding assistance under such program.

3 “(C) A description of the outcomes
4 achieved by, and any measurable benefits of,
5 carrying out such program.

6 “(D) An assessment of the effectiveness
7 and the efficiency of the implementation of such
8 program, including a description of any barriers
9 to accessing and receiving care and services
10 under such program.

11 “(E) A description of the outreach activi-
12 ties carried out by the Secretary under such
13 program.

14 “(F) An assessment of the manner in
15 which resources are expended by the Secretary
16 under such program, particularly with respect
17 to the provision of monthly personal caregiver
18 stipends under subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii)(V) of
19 such section 1720G.

20 “(G) An evaluation of the sufficiency and
21 consistency of the training provided to family
22 caregivers under such program in preparing
23 family caregivers to provide care to veterans
24 under such program.

1 “(H) Such recommendations, including
2 recommendations for legislative or administra-
3 tive action, as the Secretary considers appro-
4 priate in light of carrying out such program.”.

5 (g) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

6 (1) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—Subsection (a)(2) of
7 such section is amended, in the matter preceding
8 subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection” and in-
9 serting “section”.

10 (2) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (d) of such sec-
11 tion is amended—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “under
13 subsection (a) or a covered veteran under sub-
14 section (b)”;

15 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “under
16 subsection (a)”;

17 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “under
18 subsection (a)”;

19 (D) in paragraph (4), in the matter pre-
20 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “under
21 subsection (a) or a covered veteran under sub-
22 section (b)”.

23 (3) COUNSELING, TRAINING, AND MENTAL
24 HEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1782(c)(2) of title 38,

1 United States Code, is amended by striking “or a
2 caregiver of a covered veteran”.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER ENTITLEMENT TO POST-**
4 **9/11 EDUCATION ASSISTANCE TO FAMILY**
5 **MEMBERS BY SERIOUSLY INJURED VET-**
6 **ERANS IN NEED OF PERSONAL CARE SERV-**
7 **ICES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 33 of
9 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new section:

11 **“§ 3319A. Authority to transfer unused education**
12 **benefits to family members by seriously**
13 **injured veterans**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this
15 section, the Secretary may permit an individual described
16 in subsection (b) who is entitled to educational assistance
17 under this chapter to elect to transfer to one or more of
18 the dependents specified in subsection (c) a portion of
19 such individual’s entitlement to such assistance, subject
20 to the limitation under subsection (d).

21 “(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—An individual re-
22 ferred to in subsection (a) is any individual who—

23 “(1) retired for physical disability under chap-
24 ter 61 of title 10; or

1 “(2) is described in paragraph (2) of section
2 1720G(a) of this title and who is participating in the
3 program established under paragraph (1) of such
4 section.

5 “(c) ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS.—An individual ap-
6 proved to transfer an entitlement to educational assistance
7 under this section may transfer the individual’s entitle-
8 ment as follows:

9 “(1) To the individual’s spouse.

10 “(2) To one or more of the individual’s chil-
11 dren.

12 “(3) To a combination of the individuals re-
13 ferred to in paragraphs (1) and (2).

14 “(d) LIMITATION ON MONTHS OF TRANSFER.—(1)
15 The total number of months of entitlement transferred by
16 a individual under this section may not exceed 36 months.

17 “(2) The Secretary may prescribe regulations that
18 would limit the months of entitlement that may be trans-
19 ferred under this section to no less than 18 months.

20 “(e) DESIGNATION OF TRANSFEREE.—An individual
21 transferring an entitlement to educational assistance
22 under this section shall—

23 “(1) designate the dependent or dependents to
24 whom such entitlement is being transferred;

1 “(2) designate the number of months of such
2 entitlement to be transferred to each such depend-
3 ent; and

4 “(3) specify the period for which the transfer
5 shall be effective for each dependent designated
6 under paragraph (1).

7 “(f) TIME FOR TRANSFER; REVOCATION AND MODI-
8 FICATION.—(1) Transfer of entitlement to educational as-
9 sistance under this section shall be subject to the time lim-
10 itation for use of entitlement under section 3321 of this
11 title.

12 “(2)(A) An individual transferring entitlement under
13 this section may modify or revoke at any time the transfer
14 of any unused portion of the entitlement so transferred.

15 “(B) The modification or revocation of the transfer
16 of entitlement under this paragraph shall be made by the
17 submittal of written notice of the action to the Secretary.

18 “(3) Entitlement transferred under this section may
19 not be treated as marital property, or the asset of a mar-
20 ital estate, subject to division in a divorce or other civil
21 proceeding.

22 “(g) COMMENCEMENT OF USE.—A dependent child
23 to whom entitlement to educational assistance is trans-
24 ferred under this section may not commence the use of
25 the transferred entitlement until either—

1 “(1) the completion by the child of the require-
2 ments of a secondary school diploma (or equivalency
3 certificate); or

4 “(2) the attainment by the child of 18 years of
5 age.

6 “(h) ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.—(1)
7 The use of any entitlement to educational assistance
8 transferred under this section shall be charged against the
9 entitlement of the individual making the transfer at the
10 rate of one month for each month of transferred entitle-
11 ment that is used.

12 “(2) Except as provided under subsection (e)(2) and
13 subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), a dependent to whom
14 entitlement is transferred under this section is entitled to
15 educational assistance under this chapter in the same
16 manner as the individual from whom the entitlement was
17 transferred.

18 “(3) The monthly rate of educational assistance pay-
19 able to a dependent to whom entitlement referred to in
20 paragraph (2) is transferred under this section shall be
21 payable at the same rate as such entitlement would other-
22 wise be payable under this chapter to the individual mak-
23 ing the transfer.

24 “(4) The death of an individual transferring an enti-
25 tlement under this section shall not affect the use of the

1 entitlement by the dependent to whom the entitlement is
2 transferred.

3 “(5)(A) A child to whom entitlement is transferred
4 under this section may use the benefits transferred with-
5 out regard to the 15-year delimiting date specified in sec-
6 tion 3321 of this title, but may not, except as provided
7 in subparagraph (B), use any benefits so transferred after
8 attaining the age of 26 years.

9 “(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), in the case of a child
10 who, before attaining the age of 26 years, is prevented
11 from pursuing a chosen program of education by reason
12 of acting as the primary provider of personal care services
13 for a veteran or member of the Armed Forces under sec-
14 tion 1720G(a) of this title, the child may use the benefits
15 beginning on the date specified in clause (iii) for a period
16 whose length is specified in clause (iv).

17 “(ii) Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to the
18 period of an individual as a primary provider of personal
19 care services if the period concludes with the revocation
20 of the individual’s designation as such a primary provider
21 under section 1720G(a)(7)(D) of this title.

22 “(iii) The date specified in this clause for the begin-
23 ning of the use of benefits by a child under clause (i) is
24 the later of—

1 “(I) the date on which the child ceases acting
2 as the primary provider of personal care services for
3 the veteran or member concerned as described in
4 clause (i);

5 “(II) the date on which it is reasonably feasible,
6 as determined under regulations prescribed by the
7 Secretary, for the child to initiate or resume the use
8 of benefits; or

9 “(III) the date on which the child attains the
10 age of 26 years.

11 “(iv) The length of the period specified in this clause
12 for the use of benefits by a child under clause (i) is the
13 length equal to the length of the period that—

14 “(I) begins on the date on which the child be-
15 gins acting as the primary provider of personal care
16 services for the veteran or member concerned as de-
17 scribed in clause (i); and

18 “(II) ends on the later of—

19 “(aa) the date on which the child ceases
20 acting as the primary provider of personal care
21 services for the veteran or member as described
22 in clause (i); or

23 “(bb) the date on which it is reasonably
24 feasible, as so determined, for the child to ini-
25 tiate or resume the use of benefits.

1 “(6) The purposes for which a dependent to whom
2 entitlement is transferred under this section may use such
3 entitlement shall include the pursuit and completion of the
4 requirements of a secondary school diploma (or equiva-
5 lency certificate).

6 “(7) The administrative provisions of this chapter
7 shall apply to the use of entitlement transferred under this
8 section, except that the dependent to whom the entitle-
9 ment is transferred shall be treated as the eligible indi-
10 vidual for purposes of such provisions.

11 “(i) OVERPAYMENT.—(1) In the event of an overpay-
12 ment of educational assistance with respect to a dependent
13 to whom entitlement is transferred under this section, the
14 dependent and the individual making the transfer shall be
15 jointly and severally liable to the United States for the
16 amount of the overpayment for purposes of section 3685
17 of this title.

18 “(2)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), if
19 an individual transferring entitlement under this section
20 fails to complete the service agreed to by the individual
21 under subsection (b)(1) in accordance with the terms of
22 the agreement of the individual under that subsection, the
23 amount of any transferred entitlement under this section
24 that is used by a dependent of the individual as of the

1 date of such failure shall be treated as an overpayment
2 of educational assistance under paragraph (1).

3 “(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply in the case
4 of an individual who fails to complete service agreed to
5 by the individual—

6 “(i) by reason of the death of the individual; or

7 “(ii) for a reason referred to in section
8 3311(e)(4) of this title.

9 “(j) REGULATIONS.—(1) The Secretary shall pre-
10 scribe regulations to carry out this section.

11 “(2) Such regulations shall specify—

12 “(A) the manner of authorizing the transfer of
13 entitlements under this section;

14 “(B) the eligibility criteria in accordance with
15 subsection (b); and

16 “(C) the manner and effect of an election to
17 modify or revoke a transfer of entitlement under
18 subsection (f)(2).”.

19 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

20 (1) TRANSFERS BY MEMBERS OF ARMED
21 FORCES.—The heading of section 3319 of such title
22 is amended by inserting “**by members of the**
23 **Armed Forces**” after “**family members**”.

24 (2) BAR TO DUPLICATION OF EDUCATIONAL AS-
25 SISTANCE BENEFITS.—Section 3322(e) of such title

1 is amended by inserting “or 3319A” after “and
2 3319”.

3 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
4 at the beginning of chapter 33 of such title is amended
5 by striking the item relating to section 3319 and inserting
6 the following new items:

“3319. Authority to transfer unused education benefits to family members by
members of the Armed Forces.

“3319A. Authority to transfer unused education benefits to family members by
seriously injured veterans.”.

7 **SEC. 4. ENHANCEMENT OF SPECIAL COMPENSATION FOR**
8 **MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES**
9 **WITH INJURIES OR ILLNESSES REQUIRING**
10 **ASSISTANCE IN EVERYDAY LIVING.**

11 (a) EXPANSION OF COVERED MEMBERS.—Sub-
12 section (b) of section 439 of title 37, United States Code,
13 is amended—

14 (1) by striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and
15 inserting the following new paragraphs:

16 “(1) has a serious injury or illness that was in-
17 curred or aggravated in the line of duty;

18 “(2) is in need of personal care services (includ-
19 ing supervision or protection or regular instruction
20 or supervision) as a result of such injury or illness;
21 and”; and

22 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
23 graph (3).

1 (b) NONTAXABILITY OF SPECIAL COMPENSATION.—

2 Such section is further amended—

3 (1) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), (g),
4 and (h) as subsections (g), (h), (i), and (j), respec-
5 tively; and

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
7 lowing new subsection (e):

8 “(e) NONTAXABILITY OF COMPENSATION.—Monthly
9 special compensation paid under subsection (a) shall not
10 be included in income for purposes of the Internal Rev-
11 enue Code of 1986.”.

12 (c) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO FAMILY CARE-
13 GIVERS.—Such section is further amended by inserting
14 after subsection (e), as amended by subsection (b) of this
15 section, the following new subsection (f):

16 “(f) ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS.—(1)
17 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide family
18 caregivers of a member in receipt of monthly special com-
19 pensation under subsection (a) the assistance required to
20 be provided to family caregivers of eligible veterans under
21 section 1720G(a)(3)(A) of title 38 (other than the monthly
22 personal caregiver stipend provided for in clause (ii)(V)
23 of such section). For purposes of the provision of such
24 assistance under this subsection, the definitions in section
25 1720G(d) of title 38 shall apply, except that any reference

1 in such definitions to a veteran or eligible veteran shall
2 be deemed to be a reference to the member concerned.

3 “(2) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide
4 assistance under this subsection—

5 “(A) in accordance with a memorandum of un-
6 derstanding entered into by the Secretary of Vet-
7 erans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense; and

8 “(B) in accordance with a memorandum of un-
9 derstanding entered into by the Secretary of Vet-
10 erans Affairs and the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
11 rity (with respect to members of the Coast Guard).”.

12 (d) EXPANSION OF COVERED INJURIES AND ILL-
13 NESSES.—Subsection (i) of such section, as redesignated
14 by subsection (b)(1) of this section, is amended to read
15 as follows:

16 “(i) SERIOUS INJURY OR ILLNESS DEFINED.—In
17 this section, the term ‘serious injury or illness’ means an
18 injury, disorder, or illness (including traumatic brain in-
19 jury, psychological trauma, or other mental disorder)
20 that—

21 “(1) renders the afflicted person unable to
22 carry out one or more activities of daily living;

23 “(2) renders the afflicted person in need of su-
24 pervision or protection due to the manifestation by

1 such person of symptoms or residuals of neurological
2 or other impairment or injury;

3 “(3) renders the afflicted person in need of reg-
4 ular or extensive instruction or supervision in com-
5 pleting two or more instrumental activities of daily
6 living; or

7 “(4) otherwise impairs the afflicted person in
8 such manner as the Secretary of Defense (or the
9 Secretary of Homeland Security, with respect to the
10 Coast Guard) prescribes for purposes of this sec-
11 tion.”.

12 (e) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—

13 (1) HEADING AMENDMENT.—The heading for
14 such section is amended to read as follows:

15 **“§ 439. Special compensation: members of the uni-**
16 **formed services with serious injuries or**
17 **illnesses requiring assistance in everyday**
18 **living”.**

19 (2) TABLE OF SECTIONS AMENDMENT.—The
20 table of sections at the beginning of chapter 7 of
21 such title is amended by striking the item relating
22 to section 439 and inserting the following new item:

“439. Special compensation: members of the uniformed services with serious in-
juries or illnesses requiring assistance in everyday living.”.

1 **SEC. 5. FLEXIBLE WORK ARRANGEMENTS FOR CERTAIN**
2 **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**

3 (a) DEFINITION OF COVERED EMPLOYEE.—In this
4 section, the term “covered employee” means an employee
5 (as defined in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code)
6 who—

7 (1) is a caregiver, as defined in section 1720G
8 of title 38, United States Code; or

9 (2) is a caregiver of an individual who receives
10 compensation under section 439 of title 37, United
11 States Code.

12 (b) AUTHORITY TO ALLOW FLEXIBLE WORK AR-
13 RANGEMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Personnel
14 Management may promulgate regulations under which a
15 covered employee may—

16 (1) use a flexible schedule or compressed sched-
17 ule in accordance with subchapter II of chapter 61
18 of title 5, United States Code; or

19 (2) telework in accordance with chapter 65 of
20 title 5, United States Code.

21 **SEC. 6. LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2901 of the Public
23 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300ii) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)
2 through (C) as clauses (i) through (iii), respec-
3 tively, and realigning the margins accordingly;

4 (B) by striking “who requires care or su-
5 pervision to—” and inserting “who—

6 “(A) requires care or supervision to—”;

7 (C) by striking the period and inserting “;
8 or”; and

9 (D) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(B) is a veteran participating in the pro-
11 gram of comprehensive assistance for family
12 caregivers under section 1720G of title 38,
13 United States Code.”; and

14 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking “or another
15 unpaid adult,” and inserting “another unpaid adult,
16 or a family caregiver as defined in section 1720G of
17 title 38, United States Code, who receives compensa-
18 tion under such section,”.

19 (b) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Sec-
20 tion 2902(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
21 300ii–1(c)) is amended by inserting “and the interagency
22 working group on policies relating to caregivers of vet-
23 erans established under section 7 of the Military and Vet-
24 eran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2014” after
25 “Human Services”.

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
 2 2905 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300ii–
 3 4) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (4), by striking “and” at the
 5 end;

6 (2) in paragraph (5), by striking the period and
 7 inserting “; and”; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(6) \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015
 10 through 2019.”.

11 **SEC. 7. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON CAREGIVER**
 12 **POLICY.**

13 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be established in
 14 the executive branch an interagency working group on
 15 policies relating to caregivers of veterans and members of
 16 the Armed Forces (in this section referred to as the
 17 “working group”).

18 (b) COMPOSITION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The working group shall be
 20 composed of the following:

21 (A) A chair selected by the President.

22 (B) A representative from each of the fol-
 23 lowing agencies or organizations selected by the
 24 head of such agency or organization:

1 (i) The Department of Veterans Af-
2 fairs.

3 (ii) The Department of Defense.

4 (iii) The Department of Health and
5 Human Services.

6 (iv) The Department of Labor.

7 (v) The Centers for Medicare and
8 Medicaid Services.

9 (2) ADVISORS.—The chair may select any of
10 the following individuals that the chair considers ap-
11 propriate to advise the working group in carrying
12 out the duties of the working group:

13 (A) Academic experts in fields relating to
14 caregivers.

15 (B) Clinicians.

16 (C) Caregivers.

17 (D) Individuals in receipt of caregiver serv-
18 ices.

19 (c) DUTIES.—The duties of the working group are
20 as follows:

21 (1) To regularly review policies relating to care-
22 givers of veterans and members of the Armed
23 Forces.

1 (2) To coordinate and oversee the implementa-
2 tion of policies relating to caregivers of veterans and
3 members of the Armed Forces.

4 (3) To evaluate the effectiveness of policies re-
5 lating to caregivers of veterans and members of the
6 Armed Forces, including programs in each relevant
7 agency, by developing and applying specific goals
8 and performance measures.

9 (4) To develop standards of care for caregiver
10 services and respite care services provided to a care-
11 giver, veteran, or member of the Armed Forces by
12 a non-profit or private sector entity.

13 (5) To ensure the availability of mechanisms for
14 agencies, and entities affiliated with or providing
15 services on behalf of agencies, to enforce the stand-
16 ards described in paragraph (4) and conduct over-
17 sight on the implementation of such standards.

18 (6) To develop recommendations for legislative
19 or administrative action to enhance the provision of
20 services to caregivers, veterans, and members of the
21 Armed Forces, including eliminating gaps in such
22 services and eliminating disparities in eligibility for
23 such services.

24 (7) To coordinate with State and local agencies
25 and relevant non-profit organizations on maximizing

1 the use and effectiveness of resources for caregivers
2 of veterans and members of the Armed Forces.

3 (d) REPORTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than December 31,
5 2014, and annually thereafter, the chair of the work-
6 ing group shall submit to Congress a report on poli-
7 cies and services relating to caregivers of veterans
8 and members of the Armed Forces.

9 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by para-
10 graph (1) shall include the following:

11 (A) An assessment of the policies relating
12 to caregivers of veterans and members of the
13 Armed Forces and services provided pursuant
14 to such policies as of the date of submittal of
15 such report.

16 (B) A description of any steps taken by
17 the working group to improve the coordination
18 of services for caregivers of veterans and mem-
19 bers of the Armed Forces among the entities
20 specified in subsection (b)(1)(B) and eliminate
21 barriers to effective use of such services, includ-
22 ing aligning eligibility criteria.

23 (C) An evaluation of the performance of
24 the entities specified in subsection (b)(1)(B) in

1 providing services for caregivers of veterans and
2 members of the Armed Forces.

3 (D) An evaluation of the quality and suffi-
4 ciency of services for caregivers of veterans and
5 members of the Armed Forces available from
6 non-governmental organizations.

7 (E) A description of any gaps in care or
8 services provided by caregivers to veterans or
9 members of the Armed Forces identified by the
10 working group, and steps taken by the entities
11 specified in subsection (b)(1)(B) to eliminate
12 such gaps or recommendations for legislative or
13 administrative action to address such gaps.

14 (F) Such other matters or recommenda-
15 tions as the chair considers appropriate.

16 **SEC. 8. STUDIES ON POST-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, VETERANS**
17 **AND SERIOUSLY INJURED VETERANS.**

18 (a) LONGITUDINAL STUDY ON POST-9/11 VET-
19 ERANS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
21 Affairs shall provide for the conduct of a longitu-
22 dinal study on members of the Armed Forces who
23 commenced service in the Armed Forces after Sep-
24 tember 11, 2001.

1 (2) GRANT OR CONTRACT.—The Secretary shall
2 award a grant to, or enter into a contract with, an
3 appropriate entity unaffiliated with the Department
4 of Veterans Affairs to conduct the study required by
5 paragraph (1).

6 (3) PLAN.—Not later than one year after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
9 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
10 fairs of the House of Representatives a plan for the
11 conduct of the study required by paragraph (1).

12 (4) REPORTS.—Not later than October 1, 2019,
13 and every four years thereafter, the Secretary shall
14 submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the
15 Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of
16 the House of Representatives a report on the results
17 of the study required by paragraph (1) as of the
18 date of such report.

19 (b) COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON SERIOUSLY IN-
20 JURED VETERANS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
22 Affairs shall provide for the conduct of a comprehen-
23 sive study on the following:

1 (A) Veterans who have incurred a serious
2 injury or illness, including a mental health in-
3 jury.

4 (B) Individuals who are acting as care-
5 givers for veterans.

6 (2) ELEMENTS.—The comprehensive study re-
7 quired by paragraph (1) shall include the following
8 with respect to each veteran included in such study:

9 (A) The health of the veteran and, if appli-
10 cable, the impact of the caregiver of such vet-
11 eran on the health of such veteran.

12 (B) The employment status of the veteran
13 and, if applicable, the impact of the caregiver of
14 such veteran on the employment status of such
15 veteran.

16 (C) The financial status and needs of the
17 veteran.

18 (D) The use by the veteran of benefits
19 available to such veteran from the Department
20 of Veterans Affairs.

21 (E) Any other information that the Sec-
22 retary considers appropriate.

23 (3) GRANT OR CONTRACT.—The Secretary shall
24 award a grant to, or enter into a contract with, an
25 appropriate entity unaffiliated with the Department

1 of Veterans Affairs to conduct the study required by
2 paragraph (1).

3 (4) REPORT.—Not later than two years after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
5 shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
6 of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Af-
7 fairs of the House of Representatives a report on the
8 results of the study required by paragraph (1).

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