

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct studies on alternative work schedules for employees of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other matters.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct studies on alternative work schedules for employees of the Veterans Health Administration, and for other matters.

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 Expanded Care  
5 Hours Act” or the “ECHO Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDIES ON ALTERNATIVE WORK SCHEDULES FOR**  
2 **EMPLOYEES OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINIS-**  
3 **TRATION.**

4 (a) STUDY OF VETERANS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
7 retary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on  
8 the attitudes of eligible veterans toward the Depart-  
9 ment of Veterans Affairs offering appointments out-  
10 side the usual operating hours of facilities of the De-  
11 partment, including through the use of telehealth  
12 appointments.

13 (2) ELIGIBLE VETERAN DEFINED.—In this sub-  
14 section, the term “eligible veteran” means a veteran  
15 who—

16 (A) is enrolled in the patient enrollment  
17 system of the Department under section  
18 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code; and

19 (B) received health care from the Depart-  
20 ment at least once during the two-year period  
21 ending on the date of the commencement of the  
22 study under paragraph (1).

23 (b) DEPARTMENT STUDY.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
26 retary shall conduct a study on the feasibility and

1        advisability of offering appointments outside the  
2        usual operating hours of facilities of the Depart-  
3        ment.

4            (2) STUDY OF EMPLOYEES.—The study re-  
5        quired by paragraph (1) shall include a study of the  
6        opinions of employees of the Veterans Health Ad-  
7        ministration, including clinical, nonclinical, and sup-  
8        port staff, with respect to offering appointments out-  
9        side the usual operating hours of facilities of the De-  
10       department, including through the use of telehealth  
11       appointments.