

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 1089  
OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER-MEEKS OF IOWA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “VA Medical Center  
3 Facility Transparency Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. INFORMATION ON MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DE-  
5 PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6       (a) **FACT SHEETS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Af-  
7 fairs shall ensure that each director of a medical center  
8 of the Department of Veterans Affairs submits to the Sec-  
9 retary, the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House  
10 of Representatives and the Senate, and the appropriate  
11 Members of Congress the following:

12               (1) An annual concise, easy-to-read fact sheet  
13 containing, with respect to the year covered by the  
14 fact sheet each of the following:

15                       (A) Statistics regarding—

16                               (i) the number of veterans who were  
17 treated at a medical facility of the Depart-  
18 ment under the jurisdiction of the director;

1 (ii) the number of appointments con-  
2 ducted by each such facility;

3 (iii) the most common illnesses or con-  
4 ditions for which treatment was furnished;

5 (iv) the satisfaction of veterans who  
6 were treated at each such facility;

7 (v) how each such facility compares  
8 with other facilities with respect to the sat-  
9 isfaction of veterans who were treated at  
10 the facilities; and

11 (vi) other matters the director deter-  
12 mines appropriate.

13 (B) A description of any successes or  
14 achievements experienced by such facilities, in-  
15 cluding—

16 (i) actions taken to improve such fa-  
17 cilities;

18 (ii) actions taken to improve the ac-  
19 cess to and quality of the care provided at  
20 such facilities; and

21 (iii) any other accomplishments deter-  
22 mined appropriate by the director.

23 (C) A description of special areas of em-  
24 phasis or specialization by such facilities, such  
25 as efforts aimed at meeting the needs of women

1 veterans, suicide prevention and other mental  
2 health initiatives, opioid abuse prevention and  
3 pain management, or special efforts on veteran  
4 homelessness, or other matters as the director  
5 determines appropriate.

6 (D) A description of matters concerning  
7 such facilities that have previously been identi-  
8 fied as deficient and needing remediation that  
9 are still in need of such remediation.

10 (2) A quarterly fact sheet containing, with re-  
11 spect to the quarter covered by the fact sheet, the  
12 average wait time for veterans to receive treatment  
13 at the medical facility of the Department under the  
14 jurisdiction of the director.

15 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Each fact sheet under sub-  
16 section (a) shall be made publicly available—

17 (1) in a physical form at the relevant medical  
18 facility of the Department in a conspicuous location;  
19 and

20 (2) in an electronic form on the internet website  
21 of the facility.

22 (c) TIMING OF FACT SHEETS.—The fact sheets  
23 under subsection (a) shall be submitted during the first  
24 fiscal year beginning after the date that is 180 days after

1 the date of the enactment of this Act and not less fre-  
2 quently than—

3 (1) once each fiscal year thereafter with respect  
4 to the annual fact sheet under paragraph (1) of such  
5 subsection; and

6 (2) once each fiscal quarter thereafter with re-  
7 spect to the quarterly fact sheet under paragraph  
8 (2) of such subsection.

9 (d) STANDARDIZED FORMAT.—The Secretary shall  
10 establish a standard format for the fact sheets under sub-  
11 section (a) to ensure that each director of a medical center  
12 of the Department carries out such subsection in a con-  
13 sistent manner.

14 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) The term “appropriate Members of Con-  
16 gress” means, with respect to a medical facility of  
17 the Department of Veterans Affairs about which a  
18 fact sheet is submitted under subsection (a), the  
19 Senators representing the State, and the Member,  
20 Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of  
21 Representatives representing the district, that in-  
22 cludes the facility.

23 (2) The term “State” means each of the several  
24 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth

1 of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of  
2 the United States.

3 **SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT FOR TIMELY SCHEDULING OF AP-**  
4 **POINTMENTS AT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF DE-**  
5 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United  
7 States Code, is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating section 1706A as section  
9 1706B; and

10 (2) by inserting after section 1706 the following  
11 new section:

12 **“§ 1706A. Management of health care: timely sched-**  
13 **uling of appointments at Department fa-**  
14 **cilities**

15 “(a) REQUIREMENT FOR SCHEDULING.—In man-  
16 aging the provision of hospital care and medical services  
17 at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs  
18 under this chapter, the Secretary shall ensure that when-  
19 ever a covered veteran contacts the Department by tele-  
20 phone to request the scheduling of an appointment for  
21 care or services for the covered veteran at such a facility,  
22 the scheduling for the appointment occurs during that  
23 telephone call (regardless of the prospective date of the  
24 appointment being scheduled).

1       “(b) COVERED VETERAN DEFINED.—In this section,  
2 the term ‘covered veteran’ means a veteran who is enrolled  
3 in the system of patient enrollment of the Department  
4 under section 1705(a) of this title.”.

5       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
6 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking  
7 the item relating to section 1706A and inserting the fol-  
8 lowing new items:

“1706A. Management of health care: timely scheduling of appointments at De-  
partment facilities.

“1706B. Remediation of medical service lines.”.

9       (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-  
10 section (a) shall apply with respect to requests for appoint-  
11 ment scheduling occurring on or after the date that is 180  
12 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 4. LIMITATION ON DETAIL OF DIRECTORS OF MED-**  
14 **ICAL CENTERS OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
15 **ERANS AFFAIRS TO DIFFERENT POSITIONS.**

16       (a) NOTIFICATION.—

17           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
18 detailing a director of a medical center of the De-  
19 partment of Veterans Affairs to a different position  
20 within the Department, the Secretary of Veterans  
21 Affairs shall notify the Committee on Veterans’ Af-  
22 fairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’  
23 Affairs of the House of Representatives of such de-  
24 tail.

1           (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The notifica-  
2           tion required by paragraph (1) shall include, with re-  
3           spect to a director of a medical center who is de-  
4           tailed to a different position within the Department,  
5           the following information:

6                   (A) The location at which the director is  
7                   detailed.

8                   (B) The position title of the detail.

9                   (C) The estimated time the director is ex-  
10                  pected to be absent from their duties at the  
11                  medical center.

12                  (D) Such other information as the Sec-  
13                  retary may determine appropriate.

14           (b) APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DIRECTOR.—Not later  
15           than 120 days after detailing a director of a medical cen-  
16           ter of the Department to a different position within the  
17           Department, the Secretary shall appoint an individual as  
18           acting director of such medical center with all of the au-  
19           thority and responsibilities of the detailed director.

20           (c) UPDATE ON DETAIL.—Not later than 120 days  
21           after detailing a director of a medical center of the De-  
22           partment to a different position within the Department,  
23           and not less frequently than every 30 days thereafter while  
24           the detail is in effect or while the director position at the  
25           medical center is vacant, the Secretary shall submit to the

1 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the  
2 Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-  
3 resentatives an update regarding the status of the detail.

4 (d) RETURN TO POSITION OR REASSIGNMENT.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
6 graph (2), not later than 180 days after detailing a  
7 director of a medical center of the Department to a  
8 different position within the Department, for a rea-  
9 son other than an ongoing investigation or adminis-  
10 trative action with respect to the director, the Sec-  
11 retary shall—

12 (A) return the individual to the position as  
13 director of the medical center; or

14 (B) reassign the individual from the posi-  
15 tion as director of the medical center and begin  
16 the process of hiring a new director for such po-  
17 sition.

18 (2) WAIVER.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may  
20 waive the requirement under paragraph (1)  
21 with respect to an individual for successive 90-  
22 day increments for a total period of not more  
23 than 540 days from the original date the indi-  
24 vidual was detailed away from their position as  
25 director of a medical center.



1                   (B) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30  
2                   days after exercising a waiver under subpara-  
3                   graph (A), the Secretary shall notify Congress  
4                   of the waiver and provide to Congress informa-  
5                   tion as to why the waiver is necessary.

