

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1443
OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

Page 1, after line 5, insert the following (and redesignate the subsequent sections accordingly):

1 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Since 2006, the most prevalent service-connected disability for which veterans have received
4 compensation under the laws administered by the
5 Secretary of Veterans Affairs has been tinnitus.

6 (2) The number of veterans receiving such compensation for tinnitus has risen each year since
7 2006, increasing the number and cost of the compensation claims paid by the Secretary.

8 (3) A growing body of peer reviewed literature
9 indicates a direct connection between traumatic
10 brain injury, post traumatic stress disorder, and
11 tinnitus.

12 (4) An analysis of data collected by the Department of Veterans Affairs concluded that total
13 amount of disability compensation paid for tinnitus
14 by the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2012 was
15 \$1,500,000,000.

1 (5) Based on projected rates of growth, the
2 amount of disability compensation payable to vet-
3 erans for tinnitus is expected to exceed
4 \$3,000,000,000 in 2017.

Page 2, line 5, strike “mandatory”.

Page 2, line 10, strike “The Secretary of Veterans Affairs” and all that follows through “treatment of tinnitus” on line 12, and insert the following: “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall recognize the need to enhance the research and treatment of tinnitus and to ensure the allocation of appropriate resources directed at the research and enhanced treatment of tinnitus conducted by the Auditory Centers of Excellence of the Department of Veterans Affairs, commensurate with peer-review protocols”.

Page 2, after line 26, insert the following:

5 (b) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER AUTHORITIES.—Noth-
6 ing in this section shall be construed as interfering with
7 the discretion of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to con-
8 duct research in accordance with peer-review protocols in
9 order to ensure the quality and transparency of the re-
10 search.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide additional re-

sources for tinnitus research and treatment, and for other purposes.”.

