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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R. 1848**

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the use of medical scribes in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. ROE of Tennessee introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the use of medical scribes in Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

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 “Veterans Affairs Med-  
5 ical Scribe Pilot Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL**  
2 **SCRIBE PILOT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
4 shall carry out a two-year pilot program under which the  
5 Secretary shall increase the use of medical scribes at De-  
6 partment of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

7 (b) **LOCATIONS.**—The Secretary shall carry out the  
8 pilot program at the 10 medical centers of the Department  
9 as follows:

10 (1) At least four such medical centers located  
11 in rural areas.

12 (2) At least four such medical centers located  
13 in urban areas.

14 (3) Two such medical centers located in areas  
15 with need for increased access or increased effi-  
16 ciency, as determine by the Secretary.

17 (c) **MEDICAL SCRIBES.**—

18 (1) **HIRING.**—Under the pilot program the Sec-  
19 retary shall—

20 (A) hire 20 new Department of Veterans  
21 Affairs term employees as medical scribes; and

22 (B) seek to enter into contracts with ap-  
23 propriate entities for the employment of 20 ad-  
24 ditional medical scribes.

25 (2) **DISTRIBUTION.**—The Secretary shall assign  
26 four medical scribes to each of the 10 medical cen-

1       ters of the Department where the Secretary carries  
2       out the pilot program as follows:

3               (A) Two scribes shall be assigned to each  
4       of two physicians.

5               (B) 30 percent of the scribes shall be em-  
6       ployed in the provision of emergency care.

7               (C) 70 percent of the scribes shall be em-  
8       ployed in the provision of speciality care in spe-  
9       cialties with the longest patient wait times or  
10       lowest efficiency ratings, as determined by the  
11       Secretary.

12       (d) REPORTS.—

13               (1) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than  
14       180 days after the commencement of the pilot pro-  
15       gram required under this section, and every 180  
16       days thereafter for the duration of the pilot pro-  
17       gram, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit  
18       to Congress a report on the pilot program. Each  
19       such report shall include each of the following:

20               (A) A separate analysis of each the fol-  
21       lowing with respect to medical scribes employed  
22       by the Department of Veterans Affairs and  
23       medical scribes performing Department of Vet-  
24       erans Affairs functions under a contract:

25               (i) Provider efficiency.

- 1 (ii) Patient satisfaction.
- 2 (iii) Average wait time.
- 3 (iv) The number of patients seen per  
4 day by each physician or practitioner.
- 5 (v) The amount of time required to  
6 hire and train an employee to perform  
7 medical scribe functions under the pilot  
8 program.

9 (B) Metrics and data for analyzing the ef-  
10 fects of the pilot program, including an evalua-  
11 tion of the each of the elements under clauses  
12 (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A) at medical  
13 centers who employed scribes under the pilot  
14 program for an appropriate period preceding  
15 the hiring of such scribes.

16 (2) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not  
17 later than 90 days after the termination of the pilot  
18 program under this section, the Comptroller General  
19 of the United States shall submit to Congress a re-  
20 port on the pilot program. Such report shall include  
21 a comparison of the pilot program with similar pro-  
22 grams carried out in the private sector.

23 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) The term “medical scribe” means an unli-  
25 censed individual hired to enter information into the

1 electronic health record or chart at the direction of  
2 a physician or licensed independent practitioner  
3 whose responsibilities include the following:

4 (A) Assisting the physician or practitioner  
5 in navigating the electronic health record.

6 (B) Responding to various messages as di-  
7 rected by the physician or practitioner.

8 (C) Entering information into the elec-  
9 tronic health record, as directed by the physi-  
10 cian or practitioner.

11 (2) The terms "urban" and "rural" have the  
12 meanings given such terms under the rural-urban  
13 commuting codes developed by the Secretary of Agri-  
14 culture and the Secretary of Health and Human  
15 Services.

16 (f) FUNDING.—The pilot program under this section  
17 shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized  
18 to be appropriated for the Department of Veterans Af-  
19 fairs. No additional amounts are authorized to be appro-  
20 priated to carry out such program.