

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
TO H.R. 808  
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 “Veterans Patient Advoca-  
3 cacy Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. PATIENT ADVOCATES AT MEDICAL FACILITIES OF  
5 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7309A of title 38, United  
7 States Code, is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as  
9 subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

10 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
11 lowing new subsection (e):

12 “(e) NUMBER OF PATIENT ADVOCATES.—(1) Begin-  
13 ning on the date that is one year after the date of the  
14 enactment of this subsection, the Director shall ensure  
15 that—

16 “(A) there is not fewer than one patient advoca-  
17 cate for every 13,500 actively enrolled veterans; and

1           “(B) highly rural veterans may access the serv-  
2           ices of patient advocates, including, to the extent  
3           practicable and with consideration of catchment area  
4           patient case load and use, with respect to assigning  
5           patient advocates to rural community-based out-  
6           patient clinics.

7           “(2) In this subsection:

8           “(A) The term ‘actively enrolled veteran’ means  
9           a veteran who—

10                   “(i) is enrolled in the system of annual pa-  
11                   tient enrollment established and operated under  
12                   section 1705 of this title; and

13                   “(ii) received care furnished under this  
14                   chapter during the preceding 24-month period.

15           “(B) The term ‘highly rural veteran’ means a  
16           veteran who resides in a county that has fewer than  
17           seven individuals residing in that county per square  
18           mile.”.

19           (b) GAO REPORT.—Not later than two years after  
20           the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller  
21           General of the United States shall submit to the Commit-  
22           tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives  
23           and the Senate a report evaluating the implementation by

- 1 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of section 7309A of title
- 2 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

