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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

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

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the period during which the referral of a veteran, made by a health care provider of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to a non-Department provider, for care or services under the Community Care Program of such Department, remains valid.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the period during which the referral of a veteran, made by a health care provider of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to a non-Department provider, for care or services under the Community Care Program of such Department, remains valid.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Standardizing Treat-  
3 ment and Referral Times Act of 2025” or the “START  
4 Act of 2025”.

5 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PERIOD DURING WHICH A RE-**  
6 **FERRAL UNDER THE COMMUNITY CARE PRO-**  
7 **GRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
8 **AFFAIRS REMAINS VALID.**

9 Section 1703(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code,  
10 is amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
11 paragraph:

12 “(E) Ensuring that the period during which the  
13 referral of a covered veteran, made by a health care  
14 provider of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to  
15 a non-Department provider, for care or services  
16 under this section, is valid, begins on the day that  
17 the covered veteran has the first appointment with  
18 such non-Department provider.”.