Suspense the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 2787, With an Amendment
(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a
new text)

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION
H. R. 2787

To establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a pilot program instituting
a clinical observation program for pre-med students preparing to attend medical school.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JUNE 6, 2017
Ms. KAPTUR (for herself, Mr. JONES, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio) introduced the
following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

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A BILL

To establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a pilot program instituting a clinical observation program for
pre-med students preparing to attend medical school.

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-Specific Edu-
5 cation for Tomorrow’s Health Professionals Act” or the
6 “Vet HP Act”.

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July 18, 2018 (4:24 p.m.)
SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM FOR CLINICAL OBSERVATION BY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

It is the sense of Congress that the pilot program described in section 3(a) should be designed to—

(1) increase the awareness, knowledge, and empathy of future health professionals toward the health conditions common to veterans;

(2) increase the diversity of the recruitment pool of future physicians of the Department; and

(3) expand clinical observation opportunities for all students by encouraging students of all backgrounds to consider a career in the health professions.

SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM FOR CLINICAL OBSERVATION BY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program for a one-year period, beginning not later than August 15, 2021, to provide certain students described in subsection (d) a clinical observation experience at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) MEDICAL CENTER SELECTION.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under this section at not
fewer than five medical centers of the Department. In selecting such medical centers, the Secretary shall ensure regional diversity among such selected medical centers.

(c) Clinical Observation Sessions.—

(1) Frequency and Duration.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(A) provide at least one and not more than three clinical observation sessions at each medical center selected during each calendar year;

(B) ensure that each clinical observation session—

(i) lasts between four and six months; and

(ii) to the extent practicable, begins and ends concurrently with one or more academic terms of an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

(C) ensure that the clinical observation sessions provided at a medical center have minimal overlap.

(2) Sessions.—The Secretary shall ensure that the pilot program consists of clinical observation sessions as follows:
(A) Each session shall allow for not fewer than five students nor greater than 15 students to participate in the session.

(B) Each session shall consist of not fewer than 20 observational hours nor greater than 40 observational hours.

(C) A majority of the observational hours shall be spent observing a health professional. The other observational hours shall be spent in a manner that ensures a robust, well rounded experience that exposes the students to a variety of aspects of medical care and health care administration.

(D) Each session shall provide a diverse clinical observation experience.

(d) STUDENTS.—

(1) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select to participate in the pilot program under subsection (a) students who are—

(A) nationals of the United States;

(B) enrolled in an accredited program of study at an institution of higher education; and

(C) referred by their institution of higher education following an internal application process.
(2) PRIORITY.—In making such selection, the Secretary shall give priority to each of the following five categories of students:

(A) Students who, at the time of the completion of their secondary education, resided in a health professional shortage area (as defined in section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e)).

(B) First generation college students (as defined in section 402A(h)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).

(C) Students who have been referred by minority-serving institutions (as defined in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).

(D) Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code).

(E) Students who indicate an intention to specialize in a health professional occupation identified by the Inspector General of the Department under section 7412 of title 38, United States Code, as having a staffing shortage.

(3) ASSIGNMENT TO MEDICAL CENTERS.—The Secretary shall assign students selected under paragraph (1) to medical centers selected under sub-
section (b) without regard for whether such medical
centers have staffing shortages in any health profes-
sional occupation pursuant to section 7412 of title
38, United States Code.

(e) OTHER MATTERS.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
gram under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish a formal status to facilitate the ac-
cess to medical centers of the Department by stu-
dent observers participating in the pilot program;

(2) establish standardized legal, privacy, and
ethical requirements for the student observers, in-
cluding with respect to—

(A) ensuring that no student observer pro-
vides any care to patients while participating as
an observer; and

(B) ensuring the suitability of a student to
participate in the pilot program to ensure that
the student poses no risk to patients;

(3) develop and implement a partnership strat-
egy with minority-serving institutions to encourage
referrals;

(4) create standardized procedures for student
observers;
(5) create an online information page about the pilot program on the internet website of the Department;

(6) publish on the online information page created under paragraph (5) the locations of such centers, and other information on the pilot program, not later than 180 days before the date on which applications are required to be submitted by potential student observers;

(7) identify medical centers and specific health professionals participating in the pilot program; and

(8) notify the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the medical centers selected under subsection (c) within 30 days of selection, to facilitate program awareness.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the results of the pilot program, including—

(1) the number and demographics of all applicants, those accepted to participate in the pilot program, and those who completed the pilot program; and
(2) if participating institutions of higher education choose to administer satisfaction surveys that assess the experience of those who completed the pilot program, the results of any such satisfaction surveys, provided at the discretion of the institution of higher education.

**SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated.