

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 7589, with an Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7589

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the imposition or collection of copayments for certain mental health outpatient care visits of veterans, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2022

Mr. TAKANO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the imposition or collection of copayments for certain mental health outpatient care visits of veterans, and for other purposes.

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 “Reduce and Eliminate  
5 Mental Health Outpatient Veteran Copays Act” or the  
6 “REMOVE Copays Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS**  
2 **FOR FIRST THREE MENTAL HEALTH CARE**  
3 **OUTPATIENT VISITS OF VETERANS.**

4 (a) PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION.—Chapter 17 of  
5 title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
6 section 1722B the following new section (and conforming  
7 the table of sections at the beginning of such chapter ac-  
8 cordingly):

9 **“§ 1722C. Copayments: prohibition on collection of**  
10 **copayments for first three mental health**  
11 **care outpatient visits of veterans**

12 “(a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in sub-  
13 section (b), notwithstanding section 1710(g) of this title  
14 or any other provision of law, the Secretary may not im-  
15 pose or collect a copayment for the first three mental  
16 health care outpatient visits of a veteran in a calendar  
17 year for which the veteran would otherwise be required  
18 to pay a copayment under the laws administered by the  
19 Secretary.

20 “(b) COPAYMENT FOR MEDICATIONS.—The prohibi-  
21 tion under subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to  
22 the imposition or collection of copayments for medications  
23 pursuant to section 1722A of this title.

24 “(c) MENTAL HEALTH CARE OUTPATIENT VISIT DE-  
25 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘mental health care out-  
26 patient visit’ means an outpatient visit with a qualified

1 mental health professional for the primary purpose of  
2 seeking mental health care or treatment for substance  
3 abuse disorder.”.

4 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-  
5 section (a) shall apply with respect to mental health care  
6 outpatient visits occurring on or after the date that is 180  
7 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.