

**AMENDMENT TO MILITARY CONSTRUCTION/VA
APPROPRIATIONS BILL
OFFERED BY MS. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ OF
FLORIDA**

In the Report:

On page 4 of the report, after the paragraph headed “*Performance Measures*”, insert:

“*Customer Service Standards.*—The Committee emphasizes the importance of implementing proper customer service standards. Development of these standards includes providing significant services directly to the public, identifying and surveying target customers, establishing effective service standards and tracking internal performance against those standards.”

On page 11 of the report, after the paragraph headed “*Adequate Childcare for Military Families*”, insert:

“*Quality of Life (QOL) Projects Priority List.*—The Committee notes the ongoing challenges that the lack of QOL projects, such as the lack of Childcare Development Centers (CDCs), creates a hardship to servicemembers and their families. The Committee is concerned that too

often QOL projects are not included in budget submissions and this absence negatively impacts the QOL for servicemembers and their families. Given the demanding jobs that servicemembers must execute, creating unique solutions is required. The Committee notes that stable family life is a key component to mission readiness and retention. The Committee believes that requesting these QOL projects, like CDCs, should be a top priority amongst the Services. The recommendation includes an additional \$11,000,000 in each of the Services' planning and design accounts to support the Services preparation for construction of new CDCs at the most underserved military installation. Therefore, the Committee directs the Service Secretaries to submit a report to the congressional defense committees no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act that provides a plan to provide address QOL shortfalls, with an emphasis on CDCs, and at what installations they are most needed for the fiscal year 2020 and in the FYDP. The report should include associated funding requirements for every installation with an emphasis on CDCs. Further, the Committee directs that the Secretary of Defense to create a unified list of needed QOL projects with an emphasis on CDCs across the enterprise which shall be submitted concurrently with the annual budget submission hereafter."

On page 19 of the report, after the paragraph headed “*DOD Installation Energy Policy*”, insert:

“*Information Technology Infrastructure for Military Construction Projects.*—In the fiscal year 2019 conference agreement, the Committee directed the Secretary of Defense to report to the Committee no later than 60 days after enactment on how the Department is incorporating technology advancements and working with industry partners to gain efficiencies and savings on military construction projects. The Committee directs the Secretary to provide a status on the fiscal year 2019 directive.”

On page 52 of the report, after the paragraph headed “*Rare Cancers*”, insert:

“*Nuclear Medicine Quality Improvements.*—The Committee is aware of evidence demonstrating the prevalence of extravasations in nuclear medical procedures. Extravasations of diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals negatively affect the sensitivity and quantification of nuclear medicine scans. Extravasations can affect disease staging and treatment assessment, result in unnecessary invasive procedures and additional radiation exposure, and lead to higher costs for patients and payers. As America’s largest integrated healthcare system, the VAMC should lead by example in acting to reduce medical errors and medical

waste. The Committee encourages VAMCs to monitor injection quality and develop a physician/patient reporting system to disclose when extravasations occur. No later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, VHA shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on efforts to monitor injection quality and reduce the incidence of extravasations.”

On page 57 of the report, after the paragraph headed “*VSO Wellness Pilot Program*”, insert:

“*Health Videos for Veterans.*—Hospitals and physicians’ offices around the country are currently utilizing health videos in their lobbies, waiting rooms, and exam rooms to supplement and reinforce the medical care, advice, and instruction physicians are providing. The Committee notes that educational resources, such as these could result in cost savings and quality of life improvement for Veterans. The Committee encourages VHA, where possible, to have health videos available to Veterans and directs the Secretary to develop a plan to implement educational video systems within VHA.”

On page 66 of the report, before the “*National Cemetery Administration*” header, insert:

“*MCCF Third-Party Billing.*—Congress remains concerned over potential discrepancies in VA’s billing

process. Procedures to provide for correct billing and prompt collection must improve at VA. Therefore, the Department shall submit to Congress a quarterly report identifying the amount of third-party health billings that were owed to VA in the previous quarter and the amount collected. The report shall include billings and collections data for both large claims (greater than \$1,000) and small claims (equal to or less than \$1,000). In addition, the first quarter report shall include current efforts underway to increase VA's efficiency, accuracy, and collection process, as well as what management practices are in place to provide proper oversight of the billing process, including appeals, so as to eliminate unnecessary and duplicative functions."

