

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 6066
OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. PILOT PROGRAM ON HEALTH CARE PRODUC-**
2 **TIVITY IMPROVEMENTS.**

3 (a) PILOT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Af-
4 fairs shall carry out a pilot program under which the Sec-
5 retary tracks relative value units for Department pro-
6 viders.

7 (b) DURATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the
8 pilot program under subsection (a) for a three-year period
9 beginning not later than 60 days after the date on which
10 the Secretary submits the implementation plan under sub-
11 section (f).

12 (c) SELECTION.—

13 (1) NUMBER.—The Secretary shall select 15
14 medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Af-
15 fairs at which to carry out the pilot program under
16 subsection (a).

17 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting locations
18 under paragraph (1) for the pilot program under

1 subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider the feasi-
2 bility and advisability of ensuring that such selec-
3 tions consist of—

4 (A) areas representing different geographic
5 locations; and

6 (B) medical facilities of the Department
7 representing different clinical complexities.

8 (d) CLINICAL PROCEDURE CODING.—In carrying out
9 the pilot program under subsection (a), if the coding accu-
10 racy of a Department provider within a clinical area of
11 responsibility of the provider falls below the minimum
12 threshold set by the Secretary, the Secretary shall require
13 the Department provider to attend training on clinical pro-
14 cedure coding.

15 (e) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—

16 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out the pilot
17 program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall
18 establish for each medical facility of the Department
19 selected under subsection (c)—

20 (A) in accordance with paragraph (2),
21 standardized performance standards based on
22 nationally recognized relative value unit produc-
23 tion standards applicable to each specific pro-
24 fession in order to evaluate clinical productivity
25 at the provider and facility level;

1 (B) remediation plans to address low clin-
2 ical productivity and clinical inefficiency; and

3 (C) an ongoing process to systematically
4 review the content, implementation, and out-
5 come of the plans developed under subpara-
6 graph (B).

7 (2) CRITERIA.—In establishing the performance
8 standards under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary—

9 (A) may incorporate values-based produc-
10 tivity models and may incorporate other produc-
11 tivity measures and models determined appro-
12 priate by the Secretary; and

13 (B) shall take into account non-clinical du-
14 ties, including with respect to training and re-
15 search;

16 (C) shall take into account factors that im-
17 pede productivity and efficiency and, in devel-
18 oping remediation plans under paragraph
19 (1)(B), shall incorporate action plans to address
20 such factors.

21 (f) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than 180
22 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
23 retary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs
24 of the House of Representatives and the Senate an imple-

1 mentation plan to carry out the pilot program under sub-
2 section (a). Such plan shall include—

3 (1) the goals of the pilot program;

4 (2) actions to be taken;

5 (3) resources needed;

6 (4) metrics to measure progress;

7 (5) expected outcomes;

8 (6) timelines;

9 (7) reporting requirements; and

10 (8) an evaluation plan with criteria to assess
11 how well the pilot program worked and whether the
12 pilot program should be expanded.

13 (g) REPORTS.—

14 (1) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—On a quarterly
15 basis during the period in which the Secretary car-
16 ries out the pilot program under subsection (a), the
17 Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Vet-
18 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and
19 the Senate a report on the progress of the pilot pro-
20 gram.

21 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 30 months
22 after the date on which the Secretary commences the
23 pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary
24 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs
25 of the House of Representatives and the Senate a

1 final report on the pilot program, including an eval-
2 uation of the pilot program and the recommendation
3 of the Secretary regarding whether to extend or ex-
4 pand the pilot program.

5 (h) GAO ASSESSMENTS.—

6 (1) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—Not later than
7 60 days after the date on which the Secretary sub-
8 mits the implementation plan under subsection (f),
9 the Comptroller General of the United States shall
10 submit to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of
11 the House of Representatives and the Senate an as-
12 sessment of such plan.

13 (2) FINAL ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 60
14 days after the date on which the Secretary submits
15 the final report under subsection (g)(2), the Comp-
16 troller General shall submit to the Committees on
17 Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives
18 and the Senate an assessment of the pilot program
19 under subsection (a), including with respect to the
20 feasibility of extending or expanding the pilot pro-
21 gram.

22 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) The term “Department provider” means an
24 employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs em-
25 ployed at a location selected under subsection (c)

1 who has been appointed to the Veterans Health Ad-
2 ministration as a physician, a dentist, an optom-
3 etrist, a podiatrist, a chiropractor, an advanced
4 practice registered nurse, or a physician's assistant
5 acting as an independent provider.

6 (2) The term "relative value unit" means a unit
7 for measuring workload by determining the time,
8 mental effort and judgment, technical skill, physical
9 effort, and stress involved in delivering a service.

10 **SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE STAFFING MODELS.**

11 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall
13 develop comprehensive staffing models for all Department
14 of Veterans Affairs medical centers.

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill to direct the
Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot pro-
gram on health care productivity of the Department of
Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes."

