

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**  
**TO H.R. 7589**  
**OFFERED BY Mr . Takano**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Reduce and Eliminate  
3 Mental Health Outpatient Veteran Copays Act” or the  
4 “REMOVE Copays Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON COLLECTION OF COPAYMENTS**  
6                   **FOR FIRST THREE MENTAL HEALTH CARE**  
7                   **OUTPATIENT VISITS OF VETERANS.**

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

13 **“§ 1722C. Copayments: prohibition on collection of**  
14                   **copayments for first three mental health**  
15                   **care outpatient visits of veterans**

16       “(a) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in sub-  
17 section (b), notwithstanding section 1710(g) of this title  
18 or any other provision of law, the Secretary may not im-

1 pose or collect a copayment for the first three mental  
2 health care outpatient visits of a veteran in a calendar  
3 year for which the veteran would otherwise be required  
4 to pay a copayment under the laws administered by the  
5 Secretary.

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

10 “(c) MENTAL HEALTH CARE OUTPATIENT VISIT DE-  
11 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘mental health care out-  
12 patient visit’ means an outpatient visit with a qualified  
13 mental health professional for the primary purpose of  
14 seeking mental health care or treatment for substance  
15 abuse disorder.”.

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

