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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Office of Women's Health, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BROWNLEY of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Office of Women's Health, 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. DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S HEALTH IN THE DE-**
4 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

5 Subsection (a) of section 7306 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating paragraph (10) as para-
8 graph (11); and

1 (2) by inserting after paragraph (9) the fol-
2 lowing new paragraph:

3 “(10) The Director of Women’s Health.”.

4 **SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE OFFICE OF WOMEN’S**
5 **HEALTH IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
6 **AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 73 of title
8 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
9 of the following new section:

10 **“§ 7310. Office of Women’s Health**

11 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—(1) The Under Secretary for
12 Health shall establish and operate in the Veterans Health
13 Administration the Office of Women’s Health (hereinafter
14 in this section referred to as the ‘Office’). The Office shall
15 be located at the Central Office of the Department of Vet-
16 erans Affairs.

17 “(2) The head of the Office is the Director of Wom-
18 en’s Health (hereinafter in this section referred to as the
19 ‘Director’). The Director shall report to the Under Sec-
20 retary of Health.

21 “(3) The Under Secretary for Health shall provide
22 the Office with such staff and other support as may be
23 necessary for the Office to carry out effectively its func-
24 tions under this section.

1 “(b) PURPOSE.—The functions of the Office are the
2 following:

3 “(1) To provide a central office for monitoring
4 and encouraging the activities of the Veterans
5 Health Administration with respect to the provision,
6 evaluation, and improvement of women veterans’
7 health care services in the Department.

8 “(2) To develop and implement standards of
9 care for the provision of health care for women vet-
10 erans in the Department.

11 “(3) To monitor and identify deficiencies in
12 standards of care for the provision of health care for
13 women veterans in the Department, to provide tech-
14 nical assistance to medical facilities of the Depart-
15 ment to address and remedy deficiencies, and to per-
16 form oversight of implementation of standards of
17 care for women veterans’ health care in the Depart-
18 ment.

19 “(4) To monitor and identify deficiencies in
20 standards of care for the provision of health care for
21 women veterans provided through the community
22 pursuant to this title, and to provide recommenda-
23 tions to the Department’s Office of Community Care
24 to address and remedy any deficiencies.

1 “(5) To oversee distribution of resources and
2 information related to women veterans’ health pro-
3 gramming under this title.

4 “(6) To promote the expansion and improve-
5 ment of clinical, research, and educational activities
6 of the Veterans Health Administration with respect
7 the health care of women veterans.

8 “(7) To provide, as part of the annual budg-
9 eting process, recommendations with respect to the
10 amount of funds to be requested for furnishing hos-
11 pital care and medical services to women veterans
12 pursuant to chapter 17 of this title, including, at a
13 minimum, recommendations that ensure that such
14 amount of funds either reflect or exceed the propor-
15 tion of veterans enrolled in the patient enrollment
16 system under section 1705 of this title who are
17 women.

18 “(8) To provide recommendations to the Sec-
19 retary with respect to modifying the Veterans Equi-
20 table Resource Allocation system to ensure that re-
21 source allocations under such system reflect the
22 health care needs of women veterans.

23 “(9) To carry out such other duties as the
24 Under Secretary for Health may require.

1 “(c) MODIFICATION OF VETERANS EQUITABLE RE-
2 SOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM.—(1) Except as provided
3 by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall implement each rec-
4 ommendation made by the Director under subsection
5 (b)(8) with respect to modifying the Veterans Equitable
6 Resource Allocation system.

7 “(2) If the Secretary determines not to implement
8 any recommendation made by the Director under sub-
9 section (b)(8) with respect to modifying the Veterans Eq-
10 uitable Resource Allocation system, the Secretary shall no-
11 tify the congressional committees specified in subsection
12 (e) of such determination by not later than 30 days after
13 the date on which the Secretary receives the recommenda-
14 tion. Each such notification shall include the following:

15 “(A) The reasoning of the Secretary in making
16 such determination.

17 “(B) An alternative to such recommendation
18 that the Secretary will carry out to ensure that re-
19 source allocations under such system reflect the
20 health care needs of women veterans.

21 “(d) STANDARDS OF CARE.—In this section, the
22 standards of care for the provision of health care for
23 women veterans in the Department shall include the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(1) Requirement for at least one designated
2 women’s health primary care provider at each Med-
3 ical Center or Community-based Outpatient Clinic of
4 the Department.

5 “(2) Training for all personnel at each medical
6 facility of the Department on preventing and ad-
7 dressing harassment at medical facilities of the De-
8 partment.

9 “(3) Other requirements as determined by the
10 Under Secretary for Health.

11 “(e) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Director shall provide
12 annually to the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,
13 the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, the House Ap-
14 propriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and
15 Veterans Affairs, and the Senate Appropriations Sub-
16 committee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs
17 a report describing the following:

18 “(1) Actions taken by the Office in the pre-
19 ceding fiscal year to improve the Department’s pro-
20 vision of health care to women veterans.

21 “(2) Any identified deficiencies related to the
22 Department’s provision of health care to women vet-
23 erans and the standards of care established in this
24 section, and the Department’s plan to address such
25 deficiencies.

1 “(3) A description of the funding and personnel
2 provided to the Office and whether additional fund-
3 ing or personnel are needed to meet the require-
4 ments of this section.

5 “(4) Other information that would be of inter-
6 est to those committees in oversight of the Depart-
7 ment’s provision of health care to women veterans.

8 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) The term ‘facility of the Department’ has
10 the meaning given the term in section 1701(3).

11 “(2) The term ‘Veterans Equitable Resource
12 Allocation system’ means the resource allocation sys-
13 tem established pursuant to section 429 of the De-
14 partments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and
15 Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Ap-
16 propriations Act, 1997 (Public Law 104–204; 110
17 Stat. 2929).”.

18 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
19 for such chapter is amended by inserting after the item
20 relating to section 7309A the following new item:

“7310. Office of Women’s Health.”.