

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3636

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress certain reports relating to the health care and treatment provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2019

Ms. UNDERWOOD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress certain reports relating to the health care and treatment provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to women 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 “Caring For Our
5 Women Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON LOCATIONS WHERE WOMEN VETERANS**
2 **ARE USING HEALTH CARE FROM DEPART-**
3 **MENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
6 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
7 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
8 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representa-
9 tives a report on the use by women veterans of health care
10 from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

11 (b) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subsection
12 (a) shall include the following information:

13 (1) The number of women veterans who reside
14 in each State.

15 (2) The number of women veterans in each
16 State who are enrolled in the system of patient en-
17 rollment of the Department established and operated
18 under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States
19 Code.

20 (3) Of the women veterans who are so enrolled,
21 the number who have received health care under the
22 laws administered by the Secretary at least one time
23 during the one-year period preceding the submittal
24 of the report.

1 (4) The number of women veterans who have
2 been seen at each medical facility of the Department
3 during such year.

4 (5) The number of appointments that women
5 veterans have had at each such facility during such
6 year.

7 (6) If known, an identification of the medical
8 facility of the Department in each Veterans Inte-
9 grated Service Network with the largest rate of in-
10 crease in patient population of women veterans as
11 measured by the increase in unique women veteran
12 patient use.

13 (7) If known, an identification of the medical
14 facility of the Department in each Veterans Inte-
15 grated Service Network with the largest rate of de-
16 crease in patient population of women veterans as
17 measured by the decrease in unique women veterans
18 patient use.

19 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON MODELS OF MEDICAL FACILITIES OF**
20 **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR**
21 **THE TREATMENT OF WOMEN.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
24 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
25 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-

1 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representa-
2 tives a report on the use by the Department of Veterans
3 Affairs of general primary care clinics, separate but
4 shared spaces, and women's health centers as models of
5 providing health care to women veterans.

6 (b) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subsection
7 (a) shall include the following:

8 (1) The number of facilities of the Department
9 that fall into each model described in subsection (a),
10 disaggregated by Veterans Integrated Service Net-
11 work and State.

12 (2) A description of the criteria used by the De-
13 partment to determine which such model is most ap-
14 propriate for each facility of the Department.

15 (3) An assessment of how the Department de-
16 cides to make investments to upgrade facilities to
17 the next higher-level model.

18 (4) A description of what, if any, plans the De-
19 partment has to upgrade facilities from the lowest-
20 level model, general primary care clinics, to another
21 model.

22 (5) An assessment of whether any facilities
23 could be upgraded to the next higher-level model
24 within planned investments under the strategic cap-
25 ital investment planning process of the Department.

1 (6) An assessment of whether any facilities
2 could be upgraded to the next higher-level model
3 with minor modifications to existing plans under the
4 strategic capital investment planning process of the
5 Department.

6 (7) An assessment of whether the Department
7 has a goal for how many facilities should fall into
8 each such model.

9 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON STAFFING OF DEPARTMENT OF VET-**
10 **ERANS RELATING TO THE TREATMENT OF**
11 **WOMEN.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
14 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Com-
15 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
16 mittee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representa-
17 tives a report on the staffing of the Department of Vet-
18 erans Affairs relating to the treatment of women.

19 (b) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subsection
20 (a) shall include the following, disaggregated by Veterans
21 Integrated Service Network and State (except with respect
22 to paragraph (4)):

23 (1) The number of women's health centers.

24 (2) The number of patient aligned care teams
25 of the Department relating to women's health.

1 (3) The number of full- and part-time gynecologists of the Department.

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3 (4) The number of designated women's health care providers of the Department, disaggregated by facility of the Department.

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6 (5) The number of health care providers of the Department who have completed a mini-residency for women's health care through Women Veterans Health Care Mini-Residency Program of the Department during the one-year period preceding the submittal of the report, and the number that plan to participate in such a mini-residency during the one-year period following such date.

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14 (6) The number of designated women's health care providers of the Department who have sufficient female patients to retain their competencies and proficiencies.

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