

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7589

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the imposition or collection of copayments for certain mental health outpatient care visits of veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2022

Mr. TAKANO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the imposition or collection of copayments for certain mental health outpatient care visits of 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 “Reduce and Eliminate
5 Mental Health Outpatient Veteran Copays Act” or the
6 “REMOVE Copays Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON IMPOSITION OR COLLECTION OF**
2 **COPAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN MENTAL**
3 **HEALTH OUTPATIENT CARE VISITS OF VET-**
4 **ERANS.**

5 (a) PROHIBITION.—Section 1722B of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended—

7 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**collec-**
8 **tion**” and all that follows through “**veterans**”
9 and inserting “**and prohibition on collection**
10 **of copayments for certain visits of vet-**
11 **erans**”;

12 (2) by striking “The Secretary may” and in-
13 sserting “(a) TELEHEALTH AND TELEMEDICINE VIS-
14 ITS.—The Secretary may”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
16 section:

17 “(b) MENTAL HEALTH OUTPATIENT CARE VISITS.—
18 The Secretary may not impose or collect any copayment
19 under the laws administered by the Secretary with respect
20 to any veteran enrolled in the system of annual patient
21 enrollment established under section 1705(a) of this title
22 for the first three mental health outpatient care visits of
23 the veteran in a calendar year.”.

24 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
25 at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended

1 by striking the item relating to section 1722B and insert-
2 ing the following new item:

“1722B. Copayments: waiver of and prohibition on collection of copayments for
certain visits of veterans.”.

3 (c) APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by sub-
4 section (a) shall apply with respect to mental health out-
5 patient care visits occurring on or after the date of the
6 enactment of this Act.

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