

Calendar No. _____

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 2397****[Report No. 119-_____]**

To require implementation by the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain recommendations relating to the provision of health care through community care providers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23, 2025

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. KING) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

_____ (legislative day, _____), _____

Reported by _____, with an amendment and an amendment to the title

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

A BILL

To require implementation by the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain recommendations relating to the provision of health care through community care providers, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Coordinating and
3 Aligning Records to Improve and Normalize Governance
4 for Our Veterans Health Act of 2025” or the “CARING
5 for Our Veterans Health Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPLEMENTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**
7 **AFFAIRS OF CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS**
8 **WITH RESPECT TO CARE IN THE COMMUNITY.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Health
10 of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that
11 the Office of Integrated Veteran Care, or successor of-
12 fice—

13 (1) develops guidance for the efforts of medical
14 centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs in ob-
15 taining final medical documentation after a veteran
16 receives services from a community care provider
17 pursuant to a referral from that medical center;

18 (2) establishes goals and related performance
19 measures for medical centers of the Department in
20 obtaining initial and final medical documentation
21 from community care providers;

22 (3) establishes and monitors goals and related
23 performance measures for the completion by such
24 providers of core trainings and ensures that such
25 providers complete the required training course; and

1 (4) takes steps to ensure that the Office of In-
2 tegrated Veteran Care, or successor office, and any
3 contractor for that Office communicate clear and ac-
4 curate information to such providers regarding the
5 core trainings recommended or required by that Of-
6 fice, including whether such training is rec-
7 ommended or required.

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date
9 of the enactment of this Act, and every 120 days there-
10 after until the requirements under subsection (a) are fully
11 implemented, the Under Secretary for Health shall submit
12 to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and
13 the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives a report on steps taken by the Under Sec-
15 retary to implement those requirements.

16 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

17 *This Act may be cited as the “Coordinating and Align-*
18 *ing Records to Improve and Normalize Governance for Our*
19 *Veterans Health Act of 2026” or the “CARING for Our Vet-*
20 *erans Health Act of 2026”.*

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF SUBMISSION OF MEDICAL DOCU-**
2 **MENTATION TO THE SECRETARY OF VET-**
3 **ERANS AFFAIRS BY COMMUNITY CARE PRO-**
4 **VIDERS.**

5 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
6 *shall ensure that each contract, agreement, or other arrange-*
7 *ment through which the Secretary furnishes hospital care,*
8 *medical services, or extended care services to eligible vet-*
9 *erans through non-Department of Veterans Affairs entities*
10 *or providers includes clear requirements, including require-*
11 *ments regarding timeliness, regarding the submission of*
12 *medical documentation to the Secretary after a veteran re-*
13 *ceives such care or services from the non-Department entity*
14 *or provider.*

15 (b) *INTERNAL MEASURES.*—*The Secretary shall estab-*
16 *lish such goals and related performance measures for med-*
17 *ical centers of the Department as the Secretary determines*
18 *appropriate in obtaining medical documentation from non-*
19 *Department entities or providers under subsection (a).*

20 (c) *TRAINING.*—*The Secretary may establish goals and*
21 *related performance measures for the completion by non-*
22 *Department entities or providers of core training related*
23 *to the submission to the Secretary of medical documentation*
24 *under subsection (a) and may monitor the completion of*
25 *such training.*

1 (d) *OUTREACH.*—*The Secretary shall ensure that com-*
2 *munications by the Secretary with non-Department entities*
3 *or providers contain clear and accurate information re-*
4 *garding requirements for submitting medical documenta-*
5 *tion under subsection (a) and completing the core training*
6 *described in subsection (c).*

7 (e) *SUBMISSION OF GOALS, MEASURES, AND MATE-*
8 *RIALS.*—*Not later than one year after the date of the enact-*
9 *ment of this Act, and not less frequently than annually*
10 *thereafter for the following five years, the Secretary shall*
11 *submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate*
12 *and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Rep-*
13 *resentatives copies of any goals, performance measures,*
14 *training materials, or outreach materials pertaining to the*
15 *submission of medical documentation under this section.*

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to improve the submission of medical documentation by community care providers to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.”.