

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3408

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to educate certain staff of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to inform veterans about the Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 30, 2013

Mrs. ELLMERS (for herself, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. COBLE, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. PITTENGER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to educate certain staff of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to inform veterans about the Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights, 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 "Injured and Amputee
5 Veterans Bill of Rights".

1 **SEC. 2. INJURED AND AMPUTEE VETERANS BILL OF**
2 **RIGHTS.**

3 (a) **DISPLAY.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
4 shall ensure that the Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill
5 of Rights described in subsection (d) is printed on signage
6 in accessible formats and displayed prominently and con-
7 spicuously in each prosthetics and orthotics clinic of the
8 Department of Veterans Affairs.

9 (b) **EDUCATION OF DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES.**—
10 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that em-
11 ployees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who work
12 at prosthetics and orthotics clinics and who work as pa-
13 tient advocates with veterans who receive care at such clin-
14 ics, including Federal recovery coordinators and case man-
15 agers, receive training on the Injured and Amputee Vet-
16 erans Bill of Rights described in subsection (d).

17 (c) **OUTREACH TO VETERANS.**—The Secretary of
18 Veterans Affairs shall conduct outreach to inform veterans
19 about the Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of Rights
20 described in subsection (d) by—

21 (1) ensuring that such Bill of Rights is avail-
22 able on the Internet Web site of the Department of
23 Veterans Affairs; and

24 (2) conducting other types of outreach targeted
25 at specific groups of veterans, which may include

1 outreach conducted on other Internet Web sites or
2 through veterans service organizations.

3 (d) INJURED AND AMPUTEE VETERANS BILL OF
4 RIGHTS.—The Injured and Amputee Veterans Bill of
5 Rights described in this subsection is a statement that in-
6 jured and amputee veterans should have, at a minimum,
7 the following rights:

8 (1) The right to access the highest quality pros-
9 thetic and orthotic care, including the right to the
10 most appropriate technology and best qualified prac-
11 titioners.

12 (2) The right to continuity of care in the transi-
13 tion from the Department of Defense health pro-
14 gram to the Department of Veterans Affairs health
15 care system, including comparable benefits relating
16 to prosthetic and orthotic services.

17 (3) The right to select the practitioner that best
18 meets their orthotic and prosthetic needs, whether or
19 not that practitioner is an employee of the Depart-
20 ment of Veterans Affairs, a private practitioner who
21 has entered into a contract with the Secretary of
22 Veterans Affairs to provide prosthetic and orthotic
23 services, or a private practitioner with specialized ex-
24 pertise.

1 (4) The right to consistent and portable health
2 care, including the right to obtain comparable serv-
3 ices and technology at any medical facility of the
4 Department of Veterans Affairs across the country.

5 (5) The right to timely and efficient prosthetic
6 and orthotic care, including a speedy authorization
7 process with expedited authorization available for
8 veterans visiting from another area of the country.

9 (6) The right to play a meaningful role in reha-
10 bilitation decisions, including the right to receive a
11 second opinion regarding prosthetic and orthotic
12 treatment options.

13 (7) The right to receive appropriate treatment,
14 including the right to receive both a primary pros-
15 thesis or orthosis and a functional spare.

16 (8) The right to be treated with respect and
17 dignity and have an optimal quality of life both dur-
18 ing and after rehabilitation.

19 (9) The right to transition and readjust to civil-
20 ian life in an honorable manner, including by having
21 ample access to vocational rehabilitation, employ-
22 ment programs, and housing assistance.

23 (e) MONITORING AND RESOLUTION OF COM-
24 PLAINTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans
2 Affairs, acting through the veteran liaison at each
3 medical center of the Department of Veterans Af-
4 fairs, shall collect information relating to the alleged
5 mistreatment of injured and amputee veterans.

6 (2) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—For each fiscal
7 quarter, the veteran liaison at each medical center of
8 the Department shall submit to the Chief Consultant
9 of Prosthetics and Sensory Aids of the Department
10 a report on any information collected under para-
11 graph (1) during that quarter.

12 (3) INVESTIGATION AND ADDRESSING OF COM-
13 PLAINTS.—The Chief Consultant, in cooperation
14 with appropriate employees of a medical center of
15 the Department, shall investigate and address any
16 information collected under paragraph (1) at that
17 medical center.

○