

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 452

To amend chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of rural health-care clinics, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25 (legislative day, JANUARY 5), 1993

Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. EXON, Mr. DECONCINI, Mr. KOHL, Mr. RIEGLE, Mr. PRESSLER, Mr. BOREN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. KRUEGER, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. FORD, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. D'AMATO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, to establish a program of rural health-care clinics, 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. RURAL HEALTH-CARE CLINIC PROGRAM.**

4 (a) PROGRAM.—(1) Chapter 17 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end of sub-
6 chapter II the following new section:

1 **§ 1720E. Rural health-care clinics: pilot program**

2 “(a) During the three-year period beginning on Octo-
3 ber 1, 1993, the Secretary shall conduct a rural health-
4 care clinic program in States where significant numbers
5 of veterans reside in areas geographically remote from ex-
6 isting health-care facilities (as determined by the Sec-
7 retary). The Secretary shall conduct the program in ac-
8 cordance with this section.

9 “(b)(1) In carrying out the rural health-care clinic
10 program, the Secretary shall furnish medical services to
11 the veterans described in subsection (c) through use of—

12 “(A) mobile health-care clinics equipped, oper-
13 ated, and maintained by personnel of the Depart-
14 ment; and

15 “(B) other types of rural clinics, including part-
16 time stationary clinics for which the Secretary con-
17 tracts and part-time stationary clinics operated by
18 personnel of the Department.

19 “(2) The Secretary shall furnish services under the
20 rural health-care clinic program in areas—

21 “(A) that are more than 100 miles from a De-
22 partment general health-care facility; and

23 “(B) that are less than 100 miles from such a
24 facility, if the Secretary determines that the furnish-
25 ing of such services in such areas is appropriate.

1 “(c) A veteran eligible to receive medical services
2 through rural health-care clinics under the program is any
3 veteran eligible for medical services under section 1712 of
4 this title.

5 “(d) The Secretary shall commence operation of at
6 least three rural health-care clinics (at least one of which
7 shall be a mobile health-care clinic) in each fiscal year of
8 the program. The Secretary may not operate more than
9 one mobile health-care clinic under the authority of this
10 section in any State in any such fiscal year.

11 “(e) Not later than December 31, 1997, the Sec-
12 retary shall submit to Congress a report containing an
13 evaluation of the program. The report shall include the
14 following:

15 “(1) A description of the program, including in-
16 formation with respect to—

17 “(A) the number and type of rural health-
18 care clinics operated under the program;

19 “(B) the States in which such clinics were
20 operated;

21 “(C) the medical services furnished under
22 the program, including a detailed specification
23 of the cost of such services;

24 “(D) the veterans who were furnished serv-
25 ices under the program, setting forth (i) the

1 numbers and percentages of the veterans who
2 had service-connected disabilities, (ii) of the vet-
3 erans having such disabilities, the numbers and
4 percentages who were furnished care for such
5 disabilities, (iii) the ages of the veterans, (iv)
6 taking into account the veterans' past use of
7 Department health-care facilities, an analysis of
8 the extent to which the veterans would have re-
9 ceived medical services from the Department
10 outside the program and the types of services
11 they would have received, and (v) the financial
12 circumstances of the veterans; and

13 “(E) the types of personnel who furnished
14 services to veterans under the program, includ-
15 ing any difficulties in the recruitment or reten-
16 tion of such personnel.

17 “(2) An assessment by the Secretary of the
18 cost-effectiveness and efficiency of furnishing medi-
19 cal services to veterans through various types of
20 rural clinics (including mobile health-care clinics op-
21 erated under the pilot program conducted pursuant
22 to section 113 of the Veterans' Benefits and Services
23 Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-322; 38 U.S.C. 1712
24 note)).

1 “(3) Any plans for administrative action, and
2 any recommendations for legislation, that the Sec-
3 retary considers appropriate.

4 “(f) For the purposes of this section, the term ‘De-
5 partment general health-care facility’ has the meaning
6 given such term in section 1712A(i)(2) of this title.”.

7 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of such
8 chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating
9 to section 1720D the following new item:

“1720E. Rural health-care clinics: pilot program.”.

10 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1)
11 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department
12 of Veterans Affairs to carry out the rural health-care clin-
13 ics program provided for in section 1720E of title 38,
14 United States Code (as added by subsection (a)), the fol-
15 lowing:

16 (A) For fiscal year 1994, \$3,000,000.
17 (B) For fiscal year 1995, \$6,000,000.
18 (C) For fiscal year 1996, \$9,000,000.

19 (2) Amounts appropriated pursuant to such author-
20 ization may not be used for any other purpose.

21 (3) No funds may be expended to carry out the rural
22 health-care clinics program provided for in such section
23 1720E (as so added) unless expressly provided for in an
24 appropriations Act.

