

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2736

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish centers to provide enhanced services to veterans with amputations and prosthetic devices, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 4, 2006

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

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish centers to provide enhanced services to veterans with amputations and prosthetic devices, 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. AMPUTATION AND PROSTHETIC REHABILITA-**

4 **TION CENTERS FOR VETERANS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans

7 Affairs shall establish not less than five centers to

1 provide rehabilitation services to veterans with am-
2 putations or prosthetic devices.

3 (2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of each center es-
4 tablished pursuant to paragraph (1) are—

5 (A) to provide regional clinical facilities of
6 the Department of Veterans Affairs with special
7 expertise in prosthetics, rehabilitation with the
8 use of prosthetics, treatment, and coordination
9 of care for veterans who have an amputation of
10 any functional part of the body; and

11 (B) to provide information and supportive
12 services to all facilities of the Department of
13 Veterans Affairs concerning the care and treat-
14 ment of veterans with a prosthetic device.

15 (3) DESIGNATION.—Each center established
16 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be known as an
17 “Amputation and Prosthetic Rehabilitation Center”
18 (in this section referred to as a “Center”).

19 (b) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In identifying ap-
20 propriate facilities for the location of the Centers estab-
21 lished pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall en-
22 sure, to the maximum extent practicable, that such Cen-
23 ters are geographically located so as to be accessible to
24 as many veterans as possible in the United States.

1 (c) STAFF AND RESOURCES.—Each Center shall in-
2 clude the following:

3 (1) A modern, well-equipped, and appropriately
4 certified laboratory facility capable of providing
5 state-of-the-art and complex prosthetic devices to all
6 veterans with an amputation, including veterans
7 with an amputation incurred in Operation Iraqi
8 Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom.

9 (2) Certified and experienced prosthetists, in-
10 cluding prosthetists with certifications in new fab-
11 rication techniques.

12 (3) An accredited Physical Medicine and Reha-
13 bilitation (PM&R) service with staff who are well-
14 trained in current prosthetic services and emerging
15 trends for treatment of amputations.

16 (4) A modern gait laboratory, permanently lo-
17 cated within such Center.

18 (d) NO DUPLICATION OF SERVICES OF POLYTRAUMA
19 CENTERS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the
21 extent practicable, ensure that the services provided
22 by the Centers established pursuant to subsection
23 (a) do not duplicate the services provided by the
24 polytrauma centers of the Department of Veterans

1 Affairs designated as Tier I or Tier II Polytrauma
2 centers.

3 (2) CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
4 be construed to prohibit the location of a Center so
5 as to facilitate the ready support of a polytrauma
6 center, referred to in that paragraph.

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