

AMENDMENT TO THE RULES COMMITTEE PRINT

118-10

OFFERED BY MS. BROWNLEY OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of subtitle C of title XVIII, insert the following:

1 **SEC. 18__ . DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT**
2 **PROGRAM TO FURNISH DENTAL CARE TO**
3 **CERTAIN VETERANS; STUDENT LOAN REPAY-**
4 **MENT PROGRAM TO IMPROVE DENTAL CARE**
5 **TRAINING.**

6 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) COVERED CARE.—The term “covered care”
8 means dental care that is comprehensive in nature
9 and consistent with the dental services and treat-
10 ment furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
11 to veterans pursuant to section 1712(a)(1)(G) of
12 title 38, United States Code.

13 (2) COVERED VETERAN.—The term “covered
14 veteran” means a veteran who—

15 (A) is enrolled in the system of annual pa-
16 tient enrollment of the Department of Veterans
17 Affairs established and operated under sub-
18 section (a) of section 1705 of title 38, United

1 States Code, pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2)
2 of such subsection or is not enrolled in such
3 system but is otherwise entitled to hospital care
4 and medical services under subsection (c)(2) of
5 such section;

6 (B) is not eligible for dental services and
7 treatment and related dental appliances under
8 the laws administered by the Secretary of Vet-
9 erans Affairs as of the date of the enactment of
10 this section; and

11 (C) has a diagnosis of—

12 (i) type 1 or type 2 diabetes; or

13 (ii) ischemic heart disease.

14 (b) PILOT PROGRAM TO FURNISH DENTAL CARE
15 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO
16 CERTAIN VETERANS DIAGNOSED WITH DIABETES OR
17 ISCHEMIC HEART DISEASE.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Commencing not later than
19 one year after the date of the enactment of this sec-
20 tion, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry
21 out a pilot program (in this section referred to as
22 the “pilot program”) under which the Secretary
23 shall furnish covered care to covered veterans for the
24 duration of the pilot program.

1 (2) DURATION.—The pilot program shall be
2 carried out during the four-year period beginning on
3 the date of the commencement of the pilot program.

4 (3) LOCATIONS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
6 carry out the pilot program at the following lo-
7 cations:

8 (i) Each medical center of the Depart-
9 ment with an established dental clinic.

10 (ii) Each community-based outpatient
11 clinic with an established dental clinic.

12 (B) MOBILE DENTAL CLINICS.—In car-
13 rying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall
14 test the efficacy of mobile dental clinics to serv-
15 ice rural areas that do not have a population
16 base to warrant a full-time clinic but where
17 there are covered veterans in need of dental
18 care.

19 (C) HOME-BASED DENTAL CARE.—In car-
20 rying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall
21 test the efficacy of portable dental care units to
22 service rural veteran in their homes, as the Sec-
23 retary considers medically appropriate.

24 (4) DENTAL THERAPISTS AND TELE-DEN-
25 TISTRY.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the
2 pilot program, The Secretary shall test the effi-
3 cacy of the use of dental therapists and tele-
4 dentistry to service the dental care needs of cov-
5 ered veterans.

6 (B) USE OF TELE-DENTISTRY.—When
7 providing tele-dentistry under subparagraph
8 (A), the Secretary shall use Federal employees
9 to the maximum extent possible.

10 (5) ADMINISTRATION.—

11 (A) NOTICE TO COVERED VETERANS.—In
12 carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary
13 shall inform all covered veterans of the covered
14 care available under the pilot program.

15 (B) COPAYMENTS.—The Secretary may
16 collect copayments for covered care furnished
17 under the pilot program in accordance with au-
18 thorities on the collection of copayments for
19 medical care of veterans under chapter 17 of
20 title 38, United States Code.

21 (6) REPORTS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
23 before the completion of the pilot program, and
24 not later than 180 days after the completion of
25 the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to

1 the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the
2 House of Representatives and the Senate and
3 the Committees on Armed Services of the
4 House of Representatives and the Senate a re-
5 port on the pilot program.

6 (B) CONTENTS.—Each report under sub-
7 paragraph (A) shall include the following:

8 (i) A description of the implementa-
9 tion and operation of the provision of cov-
10 ered care under the pilot program.

11 (ii) The number of covered veterans
12 receiving covered care under the pilot pro-
13 gram and a description of the covered care
14 furnished to such veterans.

15 (iii) An analysis of the costs and bene-
16 fits of covered care provided under the
17 pilot program, including a comparison of
18 costs and benefits by location type.

19 (iv) An assessment of the impact of
20 the pilot program on appointments for
21 care, prescriptions, hospitalizations, emer-
22 gency room visits, wellness, employability,
23 satisfaction, and perceived quality of life of
24 covered veterans related to their diagnosis
25 of diabetes or ischemic heart disease.

1 (v) An analysis and assessment of the
2 efficacy of mobile clinics and portable den-
3 tal care units, to the extent such modalities
4 are used, to service the needs of covered
5 veterans under the pilot program.

6 (vi) An analysis and assessment of the
7 efficacy of dental therapists and tele-den-
8 tistry to service the needs of covered vet-
9 erans under the pilot program, to include
10 a cost benefit analysis of such services.

11 (vii) The findings and conclusions of
12 the Secretary with respect to the pilot pro-
13 gram.

14 (viii) Such recommendations as the
15 Secretary considers appropriate for the ex-
16 pansion of dental care to all veterans eligi-
17 ble for health care from the Department.

18 (7) IMPACT ON COMMUNITY CARE.—Nothing in
19 this section limits a covered veteran from accessing
20 care or services pursuant to section 1703 of title 38,
21 United States Code.

22 (c) STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM TO IM-
23 PROVE DENTAL TRAINING AND ENSURE THE DENTAL
24 WORKFORCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-
25 FAIRS.—

1 (1) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of
2 Veterans Affairs, to ensure that the Department of
3 Veterans Affairs has sufficient staff to provide cov-
4 ered care to covered veterans, shall implement a loan
5 reimbursement program for qualified dentists, dental
6 hygienists, and oral surgeons who agree—

7 (A) to be appointed by the Secretary as a
8 dentist, dental hygienist, or oral surgeon, as the
9 case may be, under section 7401 of title 38,
10 United States Code; and

11 (B) to serve as a dentist, dental hygienist,
12 or oral surgeon, as the case may be, of the De-
13 partment pursuant to such appointment at a
14 dental clinic of the Department selected under
15 paragraph (3) for a period that is not less than
16 the duration of the pilot program under sub-
17 section (b).

18 (2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in
20 subparagraph (B), the Secretary may reimburse
21 not more than—

22 (i) \$100,000 for each dentist partici-
23 pating in such pilot program;

24 (ii) \$25,000 for each dental hygienist
25 participating in such pilot program; and

1 (iii) \$40,000 for each credentialed
2 doctor of medicine in dentistry serving as
3 an oral surgeon and participating in such
4 pilot program.

5 (B) DUAL ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary
6 may reimburse an individual serving in multiple
7 positions described in clauses (i) through (iii) of
8 subparagraph (A) not more than \$140,000.

9 (3) SELECTION OF LOCATIONS.—The Secretary
10 shall monitor demand among covered veterans for
11 covered care and require participants in the program
12 under paragraph (1) to choose from dental clinics of
13 the Department with the greatest need for dentists,
14 dental hygienists, or oral surgeons, as the case may
15 be, according to facility enrollment and patient de-
16 mand.

17 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
19 appropriated for the Department of Veterans Affairs
20 for fiscal year 2024 such sums as may be necessary
21 to carry out this section.

22 (2) AVAILABILITY.—The amount authorized to
23 be appropriated under paragraph (1) shall be avail-
24 able for obligation for the eight-year period begin-

- 1 ning on the date that is one year after the date of
- 2 the enactment of this section.

