AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5620, AS REPORTED
OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS OF NEW YORK

Page 54, add after line 2 the following:

SEC. 11. ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.

(a) In General.—Subchapter III of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 1730B. Assistance for child care

“(a) Authority.—Beginning 30 days after the date of the enactment of the VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2016, subject to subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide assistance to qualified veterans described in subsection (c) to obtain child care so that such veterans can receive health care services described in subsection (c).

“(b) Limitation on Period of Payments.—The Secretary may only provide assistance under subsection (a) to a qualified veteran for receipt of child care during the period that the qualified veteran—

“(1) receives the types of health care services described in subsection (c) at a facility of the Department; and
“(2) requires travel to and return from such facility for the receipt of such health care services.

“(c) QUALIFIED VETERANS.—For purposes of this section, a qualified veteran is a veteran who is—

“(1) the primary caretaker of a child; and

“(2)(A) receiving from the Department—

“(i) regular mental health care services;

“(ii) intensive mental health care services;

or

“(iii) such other intensive health care services that the Secretary determines that provision of assistance to the veteran to obtain child care would improve access to such health care services by the veteran; or

“(B) in need of regular or intensive mental health care services from the Department, and but for lack of child care services, would receive such health care services from the Department.

“(d) FORMS OF CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.—(1) Child care assistance under this section may include the following:

“(A) Stipends for the payment of child care offered by licensed child care centers (either directly or through a voucher program) which shall be, to the extent practicable, modeled after the Depart-
ment of Veterans Affairs Child Care Subsidy Program established pursuant to section 590(g) of title 40.

“(B) Direct provision of child care at an on-site facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“(C) Payments to private child care agencies.

“(D) Collaboration with facilities or programs of other Federal departments or agencies.

“(E) Such other forms of assistance as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(2) In the case that child care assistance under this section is provided as a stipend under paragraph (1)(A), such stipend shall cover the full cost of such child care.

“(e) FUNDS.—The Secretary shall carry out this section using funds made available to the facility of the Department that provides the health care services for which assistance under subsection (a) is provided. The Secretary shall ensure that each administrator of such a facility has discretion to carry out such assistance in a manner that is appropriate for the facility and in accordance with this section.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1730A the following new item:

“1730B. Assistance for child care.”.
(c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Effective 30 days after the date of the enactment of the VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2016, section 205 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is repealed.