

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

Page 54, add after line 2 the following:

1 **SEC. 11. ASSISTANCE FOR CHILD CARE FOR CERTAIN VET-**  
2 **ERANS RECEIVING HEALTH CARE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 17 of  
4 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
5 end the following new section:

6 **“§ 1730B. Assistance for child care**

7 “(a) AUTHORITY.—Beginning 30 days after the date  
8 of the enactment of the VA Accountability First and Ap-  
9 peals Modernization Act of 2016, subject to subsection  
10 (b), the Secretary shall provide assistance to qualified vet-  
11 erans described in subsection (c) to obtain child care so  
12 that such veterans can receive health care services de-  
13 scribed in subsection (c).

14 “(b) LIMITATION ON PERIOD OF PAYMENTS.—The  
15 Secretary may only provide assistance under subsection  
16 (a) to a qualified veteran for receipt of child care during  
17 the period that the qualified veteran—

18 “(1) receives the types of health care services  
19 described in subsection (c) at a facility of the De-  
20 partment; and

1           “(2) requires travel to and return from such fa-  
2           cility for the receipt of such health care services.

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

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

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

7           “(i) regular mental health care services;

8           “(ii) intensive mental health care services;

9           or

10           “(iii) such other intensive health care serv-  
11           ices that the Secretary determines that provi-  
12           sion of assistance to the veteran to obtain child  
13           care would improve access to such health care  
14           services by the veteran; or

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

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

22           “(A) Stipends for the payment of child care of-  
23           fered by licensed child care centers (either directly  
24           or through a voucher program) which shall be, to  
25           the extent practicable, modeled after the Depart-

1       ment of Veterans Affairs Child Care Subsidy Pro-  
2       gram established pursuant to section 590(g) of title  
3       40.

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

6           “(C) Payments to private child care agencies.

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

9           “(E) Such other forms of assistance as the Sec-  
10      retary considers appropriate.

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

14       “(e) FUNDS.—The Secretary shall carry out this sec-  
15      tion using funds made available to the facility of the De-  
16      partment that provides the health care services for which  
17      assistance under subsection (a) is provided. The Secretary  
18      shall ensure that each administrator of such a facility has  
19      discretion to carry out such assistance in a manner that  
20      is appropriate for the facility and in accordance with this  
21      section.”.

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

“1730B. Assistance for child care.”.

1           (c) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Effective 30 days after  
2 the date of the enactment of the VA Accountability First  
3 and Appeals Modernization Act of 2016, section 205 of  
4 the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act  
5 of 2010 (38 U.S.C. 1710 note) is repealed.

