AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5620
OFFERED BY MR. KILMER OF WASHINGTON

Page 54, after line 2, insert the following:

SEC. 11. VETERANS’ BILL OF RIGHTS.

(a) DISPLAY.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the Veterans’ Bill of Rights described in subsection (e) is printed on signage in accessible formats and displayed prominently and conspicuously in each medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) EDUCATION OF DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall ensure that employees of the Department receive training on the Veterans’ Bill of Rights described in subsection (e).

(c) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall conduct outreach to inform veterans about the Veterans’ Bill of Rights described in subsection (e) by—

(1) ensuring that such Bill of Rights is available on the Internet website of the Department and prominently displayed (using posters printed in a large type that allows for individuals with 20/20 vision to read the print from 10 feet away) in public
spaces, lobbies, visitor centers, clinic waiting rooms, and patient sitting rooms of the Department;

(2) briefing patients about such Bill of Rights when the patient enrolls in the system of patient enrollment system under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code; and

(3) conducting other types of outreach targeted at specific groups of veterans, which may include, at a minimum, outreach conducted on other Internet websites or through veterans service organizations, health fairs, and the Veterans Health Administration Veterans Center outreach program.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Veterans Health Administration honors the rights described in subsection (e).

(e) VETERANS’ BILL OF RIGHTS.—The Veterans’ Bill of Rights described in this subsection is a statement that veterans who receive health care provided under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should have, at a minimum, the following rights (to the extent of the eligibility and enrollment of the veteran for such health care):

(1) The right to access the highest quality care, including the right to the most appropriate technology and qualified practitioners.
(2) The right to know what rules and regulations apply to patients.

(3) The right to continuity of care in the transition from the health program of the Department of Defense to the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(4) The right to receive careful explanation of proposed diagnostic or therapeutic procedures or courses of treatment by the responsible medical personnel, including with respect to risks, complications, alternative health practices, results, information and reasoning for prescribed pain management plans, and a daily review of the medical chart of the patient.

(5) The right for the patient to ask questions and be involved in all decisions regarding the care received by the patient.

(6) The right to a second opinion or change of provider, if available.

(7) The right to know the reason for any change in medical practitioners responsible for the care of the patient.

(8) The right to know the identity and professional status of individuals providing service and to
know who is primarily responsible for the care of the
patient.

(9) The right to not be transferred to another
facility, organization, or department unless the pa-
tient receives a complete explanation for the need,
was notified of alternatives, and the receiving orga-
nization, facility, or department is ready to accept
the transfer.

(10) The right to receive considerate, respectful
care at all times and under all circumstances with
recognition of personal dignity, diversity, and reli-
gious, or other spiritual and cultural preferences.

(11) The right, in accordance with relevant pro-
visions of law, to personal and informational con-
fidentiality and privacy in the discussion of the care
and management of records of patients.

(12) The right to visitors within the policies of
the facility and to be informed of the visitation
rights, including any clinically necessary restrictions.

(13) The right to be free from all forms of
abuse or harassment.

(14) The right to access protective and advoca-
cy services, when available, and file grievances.

(15) The right to remain free of chemical and
physical restraints unless safety requires otherwise.
(16) The right to care provided in a safe and clean setting, free from excessive noise and with sufficient lighting for comfort and safety.