

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

---

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to waive the requirement of certain veterans to make copayments for hospital care and medical services in the case of an error by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SMUCKER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to waive the requirement of certain veterans to make copayments for hospital care and medical services in the case of an error by the Department of Veterans Affairs, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “VA Billing Account-  
5 ability Act”.



1 “(c) The Secretary may waive the requirement of a  
2 veteran to make a payment under this section if—

3 “(1) an error committed by the Department or  
4 an employee of the Department was the cause of de-  
5 laying notification sent to the veteran of the require-  
6 ment to make the payment; and

7 “(2) the veteran received such notification later  
8 than 180 days after the date on which the veteran  
9 received the medication for which the payment was  
10 required.”.

11 (c) BILLING PROCEDURES.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 17  
13 of such title is amended by adding at the end the  
14 following new section:

15 **“§ 1709D. Procedures for copayments**

16 “(a) CARE AT DEPARTMENT FACILITY.—(1) In re-  
17 quiring a veteran to make a payment for care or services  
18 provided at a medical facility of the Department pursuant  
19 to this chapter, including sections 1710 and 1722A, the  
20 Secretary shall provide to such veteran a notification of  
21 such required payment by not later than 180 days after  
22 the date on which the veteran receives the care or services  
23 for which payment is required.

24 “(2) If the Secretary does not provide to a veteran  
25 a notification of the required payment by the date required





1           (2) improve such controls and procedures, in-  
2           cluding pursuant to the amendments made by this  
3           Act.