SEC. 731. PILOT PROGRAM ON PAYMENT FOR TREATMENT
OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND
VETERANS FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.

(a) Payment Process.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a five-year pilot program under which each such Secretary shall establish a process through which each Secretary shall provide payment for treatments (including diagnostic testing) of traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder received by members of the Armed Forces and veterans in health care facilities other than military treatment facilities or Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities. Such process shall provide that payment be made directly to the health care facility furnishing the treatment.

(b) Conditions for Payment.—The approval by a Secretary for payment for a treatment pursuant to subsection (a) shall be subject to the following conditions:
(1) Any drug or device used in the treatment must be approved or cleared by the Food and Drug Administration for any purpose.

(2) The treatment must have been approved by an institutional review board operating in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(3) The treatment (including any patient disclosure requirements) must be used by the health care provider delivering the treatment.

(4) The patient receiving the treatment must demonstrate an improvement as a result of the treatment on one or more of the following:

(A) Standardized independent pre-treatment and post-treatment neuropsychological testing.
(B) Accepted survey instruments.
(C) Neurological imaging.
(D) Clinical examination.

(5) The patient receiving the treatment must be receiving the treatment voluntarily.

(6) The patient receiving the treatment may not be a retired member of the uniformed services or of the Armed Forces who is entitled to benefits under
part A, or eligible to enroll under part B, of title XVIII of the Social Security Act.

(c) ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS PROHIBITED.—Except as provided in this subsection (b), no restriction or condition for reimbursement may be placed on any health care provider that is operating lawfully under the laws of the State in which the provider is located with respect to the receipt of payment under this section.

(d) PAYMENT DEADLINE.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make a payment for a treatment pursuant to subsection (a) not later than 30 days after a member of the Armed Forces or veteran (or health care provider on behalf of such member or veteran) submits to the Secretary documentation regarding the treatment. The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the documentation required under this subsection may not be an undue burden on the member of the Armed Forces or veteran or on the health care provider.

(e) PAYMENT AUTHORITY.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—The Secretary of Defense shall make payments under this section for treatments received by members of the Armed Forces using the authority in subsection
(c)(1) of section 1074 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.— The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall make payments under this section for treatments received by veterans using the authority in section 1728 of title 38, United States Code.

(f) PAYMENT AMOUNT.—A payment under this section shall be made at the equivalent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reimbursement rate in effect for appropriate treatment codes for the State or territory in which the treatment is received. If no such rate is in effect, payment shall be made at a fair market rate, as determined by the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, with respect to a patient who is a member of the Armed Forces or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs with respect to a patient who is a veteran.

(g) DATA COLLECTION AND AVAILABILITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly develop and maintain a database containing data from each patient case involving the use of a treatment under this section. The Secretaries shall en-
sure that the database preserves confidentiality and be made available only—

(A) for third-party payer examination;

(B) to the appropriate congressional committees and employees of the Department of Defense, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Health and Human Services, and appropriate State agencies; and

(C) to the primary investigator of the institutional review board that approved the treatment, in the case of data relating to a patient case involving the use of such treatment.

(2) Enrollment in Institutional Review Board Study.—In the case of a patient enrolled in a registered institutional review board study, results may be publically distributable in accordance with the regulations prescribed pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–191) and other regulations and practices in effect as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) Qualified Institutional Review Boards.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall each ensure that the Internet Web site of their respective departments in-
(h) Assistance for Members to Obtain Treatment.—

(1) Assignment to Temporary Duty.—The Secretary of a military department may assign a member of the Armed Forces under the jurisdiction of the Secretary to temporary duty or allow the member a permissive temporary duty in order to permit the member to receive treatment for traumatic brain injury or post-traumatic stress disorder, for which payments shall be made under subsection (a), at a location beyond reasonable commuting distance of the member’s permanent duty station.

(2) Payment of Per Diem.—A member who is away from the member’s permanent station may be paid a per diem in lieu of subsistence in an amount not more than the amount to which the member would be entitled if the member were performing travel in connection with a temporary duty assignment.

(3) Gift Rule Waiver.—Notwithstanding any rule of any department or agency with respect to ethics or the receipt of gifts, any assistance provided...
to a member of the Armed Forces with a service-connected injury or disability for travel, meals, or entertainment incidental to receiving treatment under this section, or for the provision of such treatment, shall not be subject to or covered by any such rule.

(i) Retaliation Prohibited.—No retaliation may be made against any member of the Armed Forces or veteran who receives treatment as part of registered institutional review board study carried out by a civilian health care practitioner.

(j) Treatment of University and Nationally Accredited Institutional Review Boards.—For purposes of this section, a university-affiliated or nationally accredited institutional review board shall be treated in the same manner as a Government institutional review board.

(k) Memoranda of Understanding.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to expeditiously enter into memoranda of understandings with civilian institutional review boards described in subsection (j) for the purpose of providing for members of the Armed Forces and veterans to receive treatment carried out by civilian health care practitioners under a treatment approved by and under the oversight
of civilian institutional review boards that would qualify for payment under this section.

(l) OUTREACH REQUIRED.—

(1) OUTREACH TO VETERANS.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify each veteran with a service-connected injury or disability of the opportunity to receive treatment pursuant to this section.

(2) OUTREACH TO MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.—The Secretary of Defense shall notify each member of the Armed Forces with a service-connected injury or disability of the opportunity to receive treatment pursuant to this section.

(m) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the last day of each fiscal year during which the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs are authorized to make payments under this section, the Secretaries shall jointly submit to Congress an annual report on the implementation of this section. Such report shall include each of the following for that fiscal year:

(1) The number of individuals for whom the Secretary has provided payments under this section.

(2) The condition for which each such individual receives treatment for which payment is provided under this section and the success rate of each such treatment.
(3) Treatment methods that are used by entities receiving payment provided under this section and the respective rate of success of each such method.

(4) The recommendations of the Secretaries with respect to the integration of treatment methods for which payment is provided under this section into facilities of the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs.

(n) TERMINATION.—The authority to make a payment under this section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(o) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $10,000,000 for each fiscal year during which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Defense are authorized to make payments under this section.

(p) FUNDING INCREASE AND OFFSETTING REDUCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the amounts set forth in the funding tables in division D, to carry out this section during fiscal year 2012—

(A) the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 1406 for the Defense Health
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Program, as specified in the corresponding funding table in division D, is hereby increased by $10,000,000, with the amount of the increase allocated to the Defense Health Program, as set forth in the table under section 4501, to carry out this section; and

(B) the amount authorized to be appropriated in section 101 for other procurement, Army, as specified in the corresponding funding table in division D, is hereby reduced by $10,000,000, with the amount of the reduction to be derived from Joint Tactical Radio System, ground-mobile radio program under Line 039 Joint Tactical Radio System as set forth in the table under section 4101.

(2) Merit-Based or Competitive Decisions.—A decision to commit, obligate, or expend funds referred to in paragraph (1)(A) with or to a specific entity shall—

(A) be based on merit-based selection procedures in accordance with the requirements of sections 2304(k) and 2374 of title 10, United States Code, or on competitive procedures; and
(B) comply with other applicable provisions of law.