

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 840

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 29, 2019

Ms. BROWNLEY of California (for herself and Mr. HIGGINS of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide child care assistance to veterans receiving certain medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Veterans’ Access to  
5 Child Care Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS RECEIV-**  
2 **ING MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND OTHER IN-**  
3 **TENSIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVIDED**  
4 **BY THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**  
5 **FAIRS.**

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

9 **“§ 1730D. Child care assistance for veterans receiving**  
10 **mental health care and other intensive**  
11 **health care services**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide child  
13 care assistance to an eligible veteran for any period that  
14 the veteran—

15 “(1) receives covered health care services at a  
16 facility of the Department; and

17 “(2) is required travel to and return from such  
18 facility for the receipt of such health care services.

19 “(b) CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE.—(1) Child care as-  
20 sistance provided under this section may include any of  
21 the following:

22 “(A) A stipend for the payment of child care of-  
23 fered by a licensed child care center (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 of title 40.

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

5           “(C) A payment made directly to a private child  
6       care agency.

7           “(D) A collaboration with a facility or program  
8       of another Federal department or agency.

9           “(E) Such other form 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       “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15           “(1) The term ‘eligible veteran’ means a vet-  
16      eran who—

17           “(A) is the primary caretaker of a child or  
18      children; and

19           “(B) is—

20           “(i) receiving covered health care serv-  
21      ices from the Department; or

22           “(ii) in need of covered health care  
23      services, and but for lack of child care  
24      services, would receive such covered health  
25      care services from the Department.

1           “(2) The term ‘covered health care services’  
2       means—

3           “(A) regular mental health care services;

4           “(B) intensive mental health care services;

5       or

6           “(C) such other intensive health care serv-  
7       ices that the Secretary determines that provi-  
8       sion of assistance to the veteran to obtain child  
9       care would improve access to such health care  
10      services by the veteran.”.

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

      “1730D. Child care assistance for veterans receiving mental health care and  
      other intensive health care services.”.

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