

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2478

To amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to clarify the distance requirement with respect to determining the eligibility of veterans to receive hospital care and medical services from non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia (for himself, Mr. COFFMAN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. LAMALFA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to clarify the distance requirement with respect to determining the eligibility of veterans to receive hospital care and medical services from non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

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 “Expanding Veterans’
5 Access to Choice Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF DISTANCE AND REFERRAL RE-**
2 **QUIREMENTS UNDER THE VETERANS CHOICE**
3 **PROGRAM.**

4 Subsection (b)(2) of section 101 of the Veterans Ac-
5 cess, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (Public Law
6 113–146; 38 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking “; or”
8 and inserting a semicolon;

9 (2) in subparagraph (D)(ii)(II)(dd), by striking
10 the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 paragraph:

13 “(E) resides within 40 miles (as calculated
14 based on distance traveled) of a medical facility
15 of the Department, including a community-
16 based outpatient clinic, but—

17 “(i) the Secretary is unable to assign
18 a full-time primary care physician to the
19 veteran at any such facility within such
20 distance; or

21 “(ii) no such facility within such dis-
22 tance provides the hospital care or medical
23 treatment the veteran needs.”.

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