

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1134

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Office of Patient Advocacy of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2025

Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Office of Patient Advocacy of 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 “Strengthening VA Pa-
5 tient Advocacy for Rural Veterans Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT OF OFFICE OF PATIENT ADVOCACY**
7 **OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

8 Section 7309A of title 38, United States Code, is
9 amended—

1 (1) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
2 section (i); and

3 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
4 lowing new subsections:

5 “(f) COORDINATION OF CARE IN RURAL AND HIGH-
6 LY RURAL AREAS.—(1) The director of a medical center
7 of the Department shall designate not fewer than one pa-
8 tient advocate to serve as the coordinator for veterans in
9 rural and highly-rural areas served by that medical center
10 who are receiving care through the broader network of
11 care furnished by the Department through community-
12 based outpatient clinics or the community care network.

13 “(2) An individual designated under paragraph (1)
14 shall carry out the functions of the patient advocate posi-
15 tion specific to supporting veterans in rural and highly-
16 rural areas receiving care at locations outside of a medical
17 center of the Department.

18 “(3) To the maximum extent practicable, the director
19 of a medical center shall designate existing staff of the
20 medical center to carry out paragraph (1).

21 “(g) INCLUSION OF MEDICAL CENTER DIRECTORS IN
22 CHAIN OF REPORTING.—The Director shall ensure that
23 a patient advocate at a medical center of the Department
24 reports to the director of that medical center at some point
25 along the reporting line for the patient advocate.

1 “(h) ANNUAL REPORT ON INFORMATION IN PATIENT
2 ADVOCATE TRACKING SYSTEM.—(1) Not less frequently
3 than annually, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
4 mittee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate, the Committee
5 on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives, and
6 the Director of each Veterans Integrated Service Network
7 a report outlining information generated through the Pa-
8 tient Advocate Tracking System, or successor system.

9 “(2) Each report required under paragraph (1) shall
10 include de-identified data from the Patient Advocate
11 Tracking System, or successor system, regarding—

12 “(A) common issues reported;

13 “(B) resolution times for such issues;

14 “(C) resolution times for requests for informa-
15 tion; and

16 “(D) compliments or complaints received under
17 such system.”.

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