

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3458

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of traumatic brain injury care in rural areas.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on the provision of traumatic brain injury care in rural areas.

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. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT**  
4 **PROGRAM ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**  
5 **CARE IN RURAL AREAS.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans  
7 Affairs shall carry out a pilot program in five rural States  
8 selected by the Secretary, in consultation with the Office  
9 of Rural Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs.  
10 In each of the five States selected, the Secretary shall as-

1 sign a specific Department of Veterans Affairs case man-  
2 ager to each individual diagnosed with traumatic brain in-  
3 jury who is receiving care in a medical facility of the De-  
4 partment of Veterans Affairs in a selected State. In car-  
5 rying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

6           (1) provide training at Department of Veterans  
7           Affairs medical facilities located in the selected  
8           States for Department of Veterans Affairs case  
9           managers who are assigned to individuals diagnosed  
10          with traumatic brain injury;

11          (2) coordinate with non-Department medical fa-  
12          cilities located in the selected States to provide for  
13          such training, as appropriate;

14          (3) determine an appropriate ratio of traumatic  
15          brain injury patients to each case manager to ensure  
16          the patients receive proper and efficient treatment;

17          (4) for any area in a selected State in which no  
18          Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility is  
19          easily accessible, seek to enter into a contract with  
20          a private health care provider located in that area  
21          under which the Secretary shall reimburse the pro-  
22          vider for providing health care to traumatic brain in-  
23          jury patients residing in that area; and

24          (5) provide updated information on the treat-  
25          ment of traumatic brain injuries to private health

1 care providers that have entered into contracts with  
2 the Secretary under paragraph (4).

3 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
4 shall submit to Congress an annual report on the pilot  
5 program under this section.

6 (c) TERMINATION.—The authority to carry out a  
7 pilot program under this section shall terminate on the  
8 date that is five years after the date of the enactment of  
9 this Act.

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