

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To improve authorities for performance of medical disabilities examinations by contract physicians for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—113th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 1982

To improve the provision of medical services and benefits to veterans, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. HELLER

Viz:

1 On page 291, after line 21, add the following:

2 **Subtitle E—Other Matters**

3 **SEC. 641. IMPROVEMENTS TO AUTHORITY FOR PERFORM-**
 4 **ANCE OF MEDICAL DISABILITIES EXAMINA-**
 5 **TIONS BY CONTRACT PHYSICIAN.**

6 (a) EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY AUTHORITY.—Sub-
 7 section (c) of section 704 of the Veterans Benefits Act
 8 of 2003 (Public Law 108–183; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is
 9 amended by striking “December 31, 2014” and inserting
 10 “December 31, 2016”.

11 (b) LICENSURE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.—

1 (1) TEMPORARY AUTHORITY.—Such section
2 704 is further amended—

3 (A) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
4 section (e); and

5 (B) by inserting after subsection (c) the
6 following new subsection (d):

7 “(d) LICENSURE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any law
9 regarding the licensure of physicians, a physician de-
10 scribed in paragraph (2) may conduct an examina-
11 tion pursuant to a contract entered into under sub-
12 section (b) at any location in any State, the District
13 of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or pos-
14 session of the United States, so long as the examina-
15 tion is within the scope of the authorized duties
16 under such contract.

17 “(2) PHYSICIAN DESCRIBED.—A physician de-
18 scribed in this paragraph is a physician who—

19 “(A) has a current license to practice the
20 health care profession of the physician; and

21 “(B) is performing authorized duties for
22 the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to
23 a contract entered into under subsection (b).”.

1 (2) PILOT PROGRAM.—Section 504 of the Vet-
2 erans’ Benefits Improvement Act of 1996 (Public
3 Law 104–275; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended—

4 (A) by redesignating subsections (c) and
5 (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively; and

6 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the
7 following new subsection (c):

8 “(c) LICENSURE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any law
10 regarding the licensure of physicians, a physician de-
11 scribed in paragraph (2) may conduct an examina-
12 tion pursuant to a contract entered into under sub-
13 section (a) at any location in any State, the District
14 of Columbia, or a Commonwealth, territory, or pos-
15 session of the United States, so long as the examina-
16 tion is within the scope of the authorized duties
17 under such contract.

18 “(2) PHYSICIAN DESCRIBED.—A physician de-
19 scribed in this paragraph is a physician who—

20 “(A) has a current license to practice the
21 health care profession of the physician; and

22 “(B) is performing authorized duties for
23 the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to
24 a contract entered into under subsection (a).”.

1 (c) EXPANSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.—Subsection (b)
2 of such section 504 is amended to read as follows:

3 “(b) LOCATIONS.—

4 “(1) NUMBER.—The Secretary may carry out
5 the pilot program under this section through not
6 more than 15 regional offices of the Department of
7 Veterans Affairs.

8 “(2) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select
9 the regional offices under paragraph (1) by ana-
10 lyzing appropriate data to determine the regional of-
11 fices that require support. Such appropriate data
12 shall include—

13 “(A) the number of backlogged claims;

14 “(B) the total pending case workload;

15 “(C) the length of time cases have been
16 pending;

17 “(D) the accuracy of completed cases;

18 “(E) the overall timeliness of completed
19 cases;

20 “(F) the availability and workload of the
21 examination units and physicians of the medical
22 centers in the regional office; and

23 “(G) any other data the Secretary deter-
24 mines appropriate.

1 “(3) ANNUAL ANALYSIS.—The Secretary shall
2 carry out the data analysis of the regional offices
3 under paragraph (2) during each year in which the
4 program under this section is carried out to deter-
5 mine the regional offices selected under paragraph
6 (1) for such year.”.