



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

June 18, 2008

**H.R. 2818
Veterans Epilepsy Treatment Act of 2008**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on June 11, 2008

H.R. 2818 would require the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to establish five centers of excellence for epilepsy research, education, and clinical care at VA health care facilities, and to appoint a national coordinator for those centers and for other epilepsy programs at the Veterans Health Administration. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million each year over the 2009-2013 period.

In total, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2818 would cost \$25 million over the 2009-2013 period, assuming that the specified amounts are appropriated and that outlays follow historical spending patterns for similar programs. Enacting the bill would have no effect on direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 2818 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

On November 30, 2007, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 2004, a similar bill that was ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on November 14, 2007. S. 2004 would authorize the appropriation of \$6 million a year for the centers of excellence and such sums as may be necessary for the national coordinator over the 2008-2012 period. CBO estimated that implementing S. 2004 would cost \$31 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the specified and estimated amounts.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.