



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

July 22, 2008

**H.R. 2192**

**A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an Ombudsman  
within the Department of Veterans Affairs**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
on July 16, 2008*

H.R. 2192 would establish an Office of the Ombudsman at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). The bill would require VHA to appoint a director to report directly to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The director would be required to appoint three regional administrators to support patient advocacy and resolve appeals from patients at VHA facilities.

Based on information from VA, CBO estimates that under the bill VA would require four additional employees at an annual cost between \$500,000 and \$600,000. Assuming that the estimated amounts are appropriated and outlays follow historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$3 million over the 2009-2013 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 2192 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.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Sunita D'Monte. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.