



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 18, 2010

H.R. 1017 **Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on May 12, 2010

H.R. 1017 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide chiropractic care to veterans at all VA medical centers (VAMCs). CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$46 million over the 2011-2015 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

H.R. 1017 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1017 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 700 (veterans benefits and services).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011- 2015

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

Estimated Authorization Level	3	6	12	13	13	47
Estimated Outlays	3	6	11	13	13	46

VA currently has 28 chiropractors providing care at 36 VAMCs. The bill would require VA to provide care at 75 VAMCs by the end of calendar year 2011 and at all 153 VAMCs by the end of calendar year 2013. Assuming that chiropractic care would be provided at the current level of service to individual centers, CBO estimates that VA would require 24 additional chiropractors in 2011, growing to 93 chiropractors by 2014. Based on an average cost per chiropractor of \$115,000 in 2010 and after adjusting for inflation, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$3 million in 2011, growing to \$13 million a year by 2014.

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