



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

May 21, 2007

**H.R. 1470
Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
on May 15, 2007*

SUMMARY

H.R. 1470 would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide chiropractic care at all of its medical centers. CBO estimates that implementing this bill would increase discretionary costs to VA by \$3 million in 2008 and \$74 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 1470 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 1470 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 700 (veterans benefits and services).

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes the legislation will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2007, that the necessary funds for implementing the bill will be appropriated for each year, and that the outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the VA medical services program.

H.R. 1470 would require VA to provide chiropractic care at no fewer than 75 of its medical centers by December 31, 2009, and at all of its medical centers by December 31, 2011. Currently, VA provides chiropractic care at 30 of its 155 medical centers, both through chiropractors employed at the VA hospitals and through local chiropractors who accept payment from VA to treat veterans. In 2006, VA employed 30 chiropractors to provide care at VA facilities and spent a little over \$1 million for chiropractic care provided in the community.

Based on information from VA regarding its existing program of chiropractic care, CBO expects that VA would meet the requirements of H.R. 1470 by hiring 45 more chiropractors by 2009 and a total of 125 more by 2011, at an average cost of about \$130,000 per chiropractor. Assuming that the cost of chiropractic care provided by VA through private practitioners would increase by a similar proportion such that community care would comprise about one-quarter of total costs by 2011, CBO estimates that extending chiropractic care to all VA medical centers would increase costs by \$3 million in 2008 and \$74 million over the 2008-2012 period.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law for Veterans						
Medical Services						
Budget Authority ^a	27,752	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	25,743	2,934	1,136	171	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	4	8	16	24	25
Estimated Outlays	0	3	8	15	23	25
Spending Under H.R. 1470						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	27,752	4	8	16	24	25
Estimated Outlays	25,743	2,937	1,144	186	23	25

a. The 2007 level is the amount appropriated for that year.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 1470 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Michelle S. Patterson

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Melissa Merrell

Impact on the Private Sector: Victoria Liu

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis