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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to automate third-party health insurance billings and collections of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STEUBE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to automate third-party health insurance billings and collections of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “VA Fiscal Responsi-
5 bility Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. THIRD-PARTY BILLINGS AND COLLECTIONS PROCE-**
2 **DURES OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
3 **FAIRS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) A large number of third-party health bil-
6 lings by the Department of Veterans Affairs go un-
7 collected each year.

8 (2) Procedures to provide for correct billing and
9 prompt collection must improve at the Department.

10 (3) Congress has urged the Department to im-
11 prove its systems for the collection of third-party
12 payments that are owed to the Department for non-
13 service-connected care for veterans.

14 (4) It is important for the Department to in-
15 crease collections of payments that are rightfully
16 owed to the United States.

17 (5) A comprehensive solution to the fee care
18 issue is necessary to realize full collection potential.

19 (b) USE OF AUTOMATED TECHNOLOGY.—

20 (1) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
21 Affairs shall automate the collection of outstanding,
22 overdue, and not fully paid third-party health insur-
23 ance claims, regardless of the amount owed under
24 any single claim.

25 (2) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary
26 shall seek to enter into a contract using competitive

1 procedures to provide the capability described in
2 paragraph (1). The Secretary shall award such a
3 contract from among contractors that the Secretary
4 determines have proven expertise and documented
5 success in the private sector through the use of
6 automated small-balance recovery and appeal pro-
7 cesses.

8 (3) THIRD-PARTY HEALTH INSURANCE
9 CLAIMS.—In this section, the term “third-party
10 health insurance claims” means claims made by the
11 Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recover amounts
12 from third parties pursuant to sections 1725 and
13 1729 of title 38, United States Code, and other
14 similar provisions of law.