

Please Support H.R. 1445, the Veterans Reimbursement for Emergency Ambulance Services Act (VREASA)

Request

Please support H.R. 1445, the *Veterans Reimbursement for Emergency Ambulance Services Act* (VREASA) introduced by Congressman Mike Coffman (R-CO) that would direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to treat ambulance services as reimbursable emergency services if the ambulance request was made because of the sudden onset of a medical condition of such nature that a prudent layperson would have reasonably expected that a delay in seeking immediate medical attention would have been hazardous to the individual or could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in placing the individual in serious jeopardy, and the individual is transported to the closest and most appropriate medical facility capable of treating such emergency medical condition.

Background

Over 100,000 veterans each year are faced with out of pocket expenses for emergency ambulance services because the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) denies emergency ambulance claims due to its interpretation of their regulation.

Currently, the VA requires all medical records be provided, including the records of treatment after the emergency service has taken place, prior to reimbursing the ambulance provider. However, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) frequently prevents ambulance providers from gathering the required medical information for submission to the VA for reimbursement.

Medicare, Medicaid, and other major payers adhere to the “prudent layperson” standard regarding reimbursement of emergency ambulance services. The VA is the only major payer that does not follow this standard and therefore denies the claim. The only recourse for ambulance providers that cannot be reimbursed by the VA is to bill the veteran. This places an undue cost and safety burden on numerous veterans.

The Veterans Reimbursement for Emergency Ambulance Services Act would direct the VA Secretary to approve emergency ambulance services for reimbursement when a “prudent layperson” would have reasonably expected that a delay in seeking immediate medical attention would have been hazardous to the life or health of the individual.

H.R. 1445 is endorsed by: American Medical Response, American Ambulance Association, the Association of the United States Navy, and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians.

Cost

No CBO score at this time.

Contact

For more information or to cosponsor H.R. 1445, the Veterans Reimbursement for Emergency Ambulance Services Act, please contact Katharine Denby (Katharine.Denby@mail.house.gov) in Rep. Mike Coffman’s office.

Current Cosponsors

A list of cosponsors as of April 3, 2018, of H.R. 1445 is on the back of this document.

H.R. 1445 Cosponsors (Alphabetical by last name)

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