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(Original Signature of Member)

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of health care professionals to treat veterans via telemedicine.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of health care professionals to treat veterans via telemedicine.

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 “Veterans E-Health &
5 Telemedicine Support Act of 2012” or the “VETS Act
6 of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. LICENSURE OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS OF**
2 **THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**
3 **PROVIDING TREATMENT VIA TELEMEDICINE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United
5 States Code, is amended by adding after section 1730A
6 the following new section:

7 **“§ 1730B. Licensure of health care professionals pro-**
8 **viding treatment via telemedicine**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any provision
10 of law regarding the licensure of health care professionals,
11 a covered health care professional may practice the health
12 profession of the health care professional at any location
13 in any State, the District of Columbia, or a Common-
14 wealth, territory, or possession of the United States, re-
15 gardless of where such health care professional or the pa-
16 tient is located, if the health care professional is using tele-
17 medicine to provide treatment to an individual under this
18 chapter.

19 “(b) PROPERTY OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—Sub-
20 section (a) shall apply to a covered health care professional
21 providing treatment to a patient regardless of whether
22 such health care professional or patient is located in a fa-
23 cility owned by the Federal Government during such treat-
24 ment.

25 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) The term ‘covered health care professional’
2 means a health care professional who is—

3 “(A) authorized by the Secretary to pro-
4 vide health care under this chapter, including a
5 private health care professional who provides
6 such care under a contract entered into with
7 the Secretary, including a contract entered into
8 under section 1703 of this title; and

9 “(B) licensed to practice the health care
10 profession of the health care professional.

11 “(3) The term ‘telemedicine’ means the use of
12 telecommunication technology and information tech-
13 nology to support the provision of health care in sit-
14 uations where the patient and health care profes-
15 sional are separated by geographic distance.

16 “(d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may
17 be construed to remove, limit, or otherwise affect any obli-
18 gation of a covered health care professional under the Con-
19 trolled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.).”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
21 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
22 after the item relating to section 1730A the following new
23 item:

“1730B. Licensure of health care professionals providing treatment via telemedi-
cine.”.