



Veterans' Access to Child Care Act (H.R. 840)

- In 2010, Congress passed legislation directing VA to create a pilot program to provide free child care at a small number of VA medical centers and clinics.
- A VA reported issued in 2015 estimated that over 10,000 children had used the program through the end of FY2014. Many more have used it since that report was issued.
- The program has been very popular with the veteran community.
- Women veterans used the service at a rate four times their population among the veteran community at large, indicating the program is working for the growing population of women veterans and their families.
- The pilot program has been reauthorized multiple times. However, it is set to expire on October 1, 2019.
- H.R. 840 would make the VA's Child Care Pilot Program permanent and expand it so that all veterans, who are primary caretakers, have a safe, reliable, and cost-free option for child care when they use VA healthcare.
- According to a VA Satisfaction Survey of veterans who have used the pilot program, a majority responded that without the available child care they would have brought their children to their appointment or cancelled their appointment altogether.
- Similar legislation (H.R. 95) passed the House during the 115th.
- The bill has been supported by Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, AMVETS, Easterseals, and the Fleet Reserve Association.