

[114H3849]

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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure access to qualified acupuncturist services for military members and military dependents, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure access to acupuncturist services through the Department of Veterans Affairs, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of qualified acupuncturist services under the Medicare program; to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the appointment of qualified acupuncturists as officers in the commissioned Regular Corps and the Ready Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service, and for other purposes.

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**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Ms. JUDY CHU of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure access to qualified acupuncturist services for military members and military dependents, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure access to acupuncturist services through the Department of Veterans Affairs, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of qualified acupuncturist services under the Medicare program; to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the appointment of qualified

acupuncturists as officers in the commissioned Regular Corps and the Ready Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service, and for other purposes.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4       (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5       “Acupuncture for Heroes and Seniors Act of 2019”.

6       (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of  
7       this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

Sec. 3. Inclusion of acupuncture services through military health care system  
and TRICARE program.

Sec. 4. Acupuncture health services for TRICARE program beneficiaries.

Sec. 5. Appointment of acupuncturists as commissioned officers.

Sec. 6. Inclusion of acupuncturist services at veterans health facilities.

Sec. 7. Coverage for acupuncturist services under the Medicare program.

Sec. 8. Acupuncturists in the Regular Corps and the Ready Reserve Corps of  
the Public Health Service.

8       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

9       In this Act, except as otherwise provided:

10       (1) The term “qualified acupuncturist services”

11       means—

12       (A) acupuncturist services—

13               (i) that are furnished by a qualified  
14       acupuncturist; and

15               (ii) which the qualified acupuncturist  
16       is legally authorized to perform under  
17       State law; and

1 (B) services and supplies that are fur-  
2 nished by a qualified acupuncturist incident to  
3 the services described in subparagraph (A).

4 (2) The term “qualified acupuncturist” means  
5 an individual who is licensed or certified as an  
6 acupuncturist by a State or, in the case of an indi-  
7 vidual in a State that does not provide for such li-  
8 censure or certification, meets such criteria (such as  
9 accreditation through an appropriate nationally rec-  
10 ognized certification authority for acupuncturists) as  
11 the Secretary of Health and Human Services may  
12 specify. In specifying such requirements, the Sec-  
13 retary may use the same requirements as those es-  
14 tablished by such a certification authority.

15 (3) The term “State” means the 50 States, the  
16 District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States  
17 Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the  
18 Northern Mariana Islands.

19 **SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF ACUPUNCTURE SERVICES THROUGH**  
20 **MILITARY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM AND**  
21 **TRICARE PROGRAM.**

22 (a) MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 55 of title 10,  
24 United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
25 section 1074o the following new section:

1 **“§ 1074p. Provision of acupuncturist services**

2 “In accordance with section 1074(c) of this title, and  
3 under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, members  
4 of the uniformed services entitled to medical care under  
5 section 1074 shall be entitled to qualified acupuncturist  
6 services (without the requirement of a referral) provided  
7 in a military medical treatment facility or a private facility  
8 by an acupuncturist who is licensed or certified in the  
9 State in which the facility is located, or, in the case of  
10 a facility in a State that does not provide for such licen-  
11 sure or certification, meets such criteria (such as accredi-  
12 tation through an appropriate nationally recognized cer-  
13 tification authority for acupuncturists) as the Secretary  
14 may specify. In specifying such requirements, the Sec-  
15 retary may use the same requirements as those established  
16 by such a certification authority.”.

17 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
18 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
19 by inserting after the item relating to section 1074o  
20 the following new item:

“1074p. Provision of acupuncturist services.”.

21 (b) TRICARE PROGRAM.—Section 1079(a) of title  
22 10, United States Code, is amended—

23 (1) in paragraph (12), by inserting “or para-  
24 graph (18)” after “except as authorized in para-  
25 graph (4)”; and

1           (2) by adding at the end the following new  
2 paragraph:

3           “(18) Acupuncturist services may be provided  
4 without the requirement of a referral if performed  
5 by an acupuncturist who is licensed or certified in  
6 the State in which the services are furnished, or, in  
7 the case of services furnished in a State that does  
8 not provide for such licensure or certification, meets  
9 such criteria (such as accreditation through an ap-  
10 propriate nationally recognized certification author-  
11 ity for acupuncturists) as the Secretary may specify.  
12 In specifying such requirements, the Secretary may  
13 use the same requirements as those established by  
14 such a certification authority.”.

15       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
16 this section shall take effect on the date that is 180 days  
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 4. ACUPUNCTURE HEALTH SERVICES FOR TRICARE**  
19 **PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES.**

20       (a) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after  
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
22 Defense shall develop a plan to provide qualified  
23 acupuncturist services, as a permanent part of the  
24 TRICARE program pursuant to the amendments made by

1 section 3, for covered beneficiaries (as defined in section  
2 1072 of title 10, United States Code).

3 (b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan shall require  
4 that a contract entered into under section 1097 of title  
5 10, United States Code, for the delivery of health care  
6 services shall—

7 (1) include the delivery of qualified  
8 acupuncturist services;

9 (2) require that qualified acupuncturist services  
10 may be provided only by a qualified acupuncturist;  
11 and

12 (3) provide clarity on the process that a covered  
13 beneficiary must use to select and have direct access  
14 to a qualified acupuncturist (without the require-  
15 ment of a referral).

16 (c) IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN.—The plan developed  
17 under subsection (a) shall provide for implementation of  
18 the plan to begin not later than 270 days after the date  
19 of enactment of this Act.

20 (d) SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall submit to  
21 Congress the plan developed under subsection (a).

22 **SEC. 5. APPOINTMENT OF ACUPUNCTURISTS AS COMMIS-**  
23 **SIONED OFFICERS IN THE ARMED FORCES.**

24 (a) ARMY.—Section 7068 of title 10, United States  
25 Code, is amended—

1           (1) by inserting “(a) MEDICAL SERVICE  
2       CORPS.—” before “There is”;

3           (2) in paragraph (5)—

4               (A) in subparagraph (D), by striking  
5       “and”;

6               (B) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as  
7       subparagraph (F); and

8               (C) by inserting after subparagraph (D)  
9       the following new subparagraph:

10               “(E) the Acupuncture Section; and”; and

11           (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
12       section:

13       “(b) APPOINTMENT OF ACUPUNCTURISTS.—

14       Acupuncturists who are qualified under regulations pre-  
15       scribed by the Secretary of the Army may be appointed  
16       as commissioned officers in the Acupuncture Section of  
17       the Medical Service Corps of the Army. Such regulations  
18       shall require such acupuncturists to be licensed or certified  
19       in the State in which the services are furnished, or, in  
20       the case of services furnished in a State that does not pro-  
21       vide for such licensure or certification, meets such criteria  
22       (such as accreditation through an appropriate nationally  
23       recognized certification authority for acupuncturists) as  
24       the Secretary of the Army may specify. In specifying such  
25       requirements, the Secretary may use the same require-

1 ments as those established by such a certification author-  
2 ity.”.

3 (b) NAVY.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 809 of such title is  
5 amended by inserting after section 8079 the fol-  
6 lowing new section:

7 **“§ 8080. Appointment of acupuncturists in the Med-**  
8 **ical Service Corps**

9 “Acupuncturists who are qualified under regulations  
10 prescribed by the Secretary of the Navy may be appointed  
11 as commissioned officers in the Medical Service Corps of  
12 the Navy. Such regulations shall require such  
13 acupuncturists to be licensed or certified in the State in  
14 which the services are furnished, or, in the case of services  
15 furnished in a State that does not provide for such licen-  
16 sure or certification, meets such criteria (such as accredi-  
17 tation through an appropriate nationally recognized cer-  
18 tification authority for acupuncturists) as the Secretary  
19 of the Navy may specify. In specifying such requirements,  
20 the Secretary may use the same requirements as those es-  
21 tablished by such a certification authority.”.

22 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
23 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
24 by inserting after the item relating to section 8079  
25 the following new item:

“8080. Appointment of acupuncturists in the Medical Service Corps.”.



1 (c) AIR FORCE.—Section 9067(f) of such title is  
2 amended—

3 (1) by striking “physician assistant functions  
4 and chiropractic functions” and inserting “physician  
5 assistant functions, chiropractic functions, and  
6 acupuncturist functions”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following new sen-  
8 tence: “Biomedical service officers may be referred  
9 to as the specific career designation, including chiro-  
10 practice services officer and acupuncturist services of-  
11 ficer.”.

12 (d) REGULATIONS.—The regulations required to be  
13 prescribed by the amendments made by this section shall  
14 be prescribed not later than 120 days after the date of  
15 the enactment of this Act.

16 **SEC. 6. INCLUSION OF ACUPUNCTURIST SERVICES AT VET-**  
17 **ERANS HEALTH FACILITIES.**

18 (a) ACUPUNCTURIST SERVICES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17  
20 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-  
21 ing at the end the following new section:

22 **“§ 1720J. Provision of acupuncturist services**

23 **“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a**  
24 **program to provide acupuncturist services to veterans en-**  
25 **rolled in the health care system established under section**

1 1705(a) of this title (without the requirement of a refer-  
2 ral).

3 “(b) LOCATIONS.—The program under subsection (a)  
4 shall be carried out at in at least one facility of the De-  
5 partment in each Veterans Integrated Service Network. In  
6 selecting such facilities, the Secretary shall ensure that the  
7 program is carried out in both urban and rural areas.

8 “(c) SERVICES AVAILABLE.—The Secretary shall en-  
9 sure that the acupuncturist services available under the  
10 program are able to address, at a minimum, the following:

11 “(1) Chronic and acute pain.

12 “(2) Cancer pain.

13 “(3) Postoperative nausea and vomiting.

14 “(4) Postsurgical gastroparesis syndrome.

15 “(5) Opioid-induced constipation.

16 “(6) Opioid-induced pruritus.

17 “(7) Chemotherapy-induced neuropathy.

18 “(8) Aromatase inhibitor-associated joint pain.

19 “(9) Neck dissection-related pain and dysfunc-  
20 tion.

21 “(10) Stress management.

22 “(11) Mental health conditions.

23 “(12) Substance abuse.

24 “(13) Symptoms relating to traumatic brain in-  
25 jury and post-traumatic stress.

1       “(d) ADMINISTRATION.—(1) The Secretary shall  
2 carry out the program through—

3               “(A) qualified acupuncturists appointed as em-  
4 ployees of the Department located at medical centers  
5 and clinics of the Department; and

6               “(B) through contract qualified acupuncturists  
7 if—

8                       “(i) the Secretary is unable to make ap-  
9 pointments described in subparagraph (A);

10                      “(ii) a patient requires specialty care that  
11 an employee under such subparagraph is not  
12 able to provide to the patient; or

13                      “(iii) there is an emergency that requires  
14 the use of such a contract acupuncturist.

15       “(2) The Secretary shall provide training and mate-  
16 rials to health care providers of the Department who pro-  
17 vide primary care to veterans to explain the benefits of  
18 acupuncturist services.

19       “(3) In this section, the term ‘qualified  
20 acupuncturist’ means, with respect to the furnishing of  
21 services in a State, an individual who licensed or certified  
22 in the State in which the services are furnished, or, in  
23 the case of services furnished in a State that does not pro-  
24 vide for such licensure or certification, meets such criteria  
25 (such as accreditation through an appropriate nationally

1 recognized certification authority for acupuncturists) as  
2 the Secretary may specify. In specifying such require-  
3 ments, the Secretary may use the same requirements as  
4 those established by such a certification authority.

5 “(e) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe  
6 regulations to carry out this section.”.

7 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
8 tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
9 by inserting after the item relating to section 1720I  
10 the following new section:

“1720J. Provision of acupuncturist services.”.

11 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
12 1701(6) of such title is amended by adding at the  
13 end the following new subparagraph:

14 “(H) Acupuncturist services in accordance  
15 with section 1720J of this title.”.

16 (b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 5  
18 of such title is amended by adding at the end the  
19 following new section:

20 **“§ 547. Advisory committee on acupuncturist services**

21 “(a) ACUPUNCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—(1)  
22 The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to be  
23 known as the ‘Advisory Committee on Acupuncturist Serv-  
24 ices’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Committee’) to  
25 provide the Secretary with assistance and advice in the

1 development and implementation of the program estab-  
2 lished by section 1720J of this title.

3 “(2) The Committee shall consist of members ap-  
4 pointed by the Secretary from the general public, includ-  
5 ing—

6 “(A) not fewer than five practicing  
7 acupuncturists, of which at least four shall be State  
8 licensed acupuncturists;

9 “(B) one veteran from each of the Armed  
10 Forces;

11 “(C) not fewer than two representatives from  
12 veterans service organizations; and

13 “(D) a representative of the Department of De-  
14 fense.

15 “(b) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

16 “(1) review and evaluate the ability of a veteran  
17 to access an acupuncturist at facilities of the De-  
18 partment;

19 “(2) advise the Secretary with respect to—

20 “(A) protocols governing direct access to  
21 acupuncture care;

22 “(B) protocols governing the scope of prac-  
23 tice of acupuncture practitioners;

24 “(C) the definitions of services to be pro-  
25 vided by acupuncturists; and

1                   “(D) such other matters the Secretary de-  
2                   termines appropriate; and

3                   “(3) upon the determination of the Secretary  
4                   that the program of acupuncturist services under  
5                   section 1720H of this title has been fully imple-  
6                   mented, submit to the Secretary a report containing  
7                   the evaluation of the Committee of the implementa-  
8                   tion of such program.

9                   “(c) CHAIRMAN.—The Secretary shall designate one  
10                  member of the Committee to serve as the chairman of the  
11                  Committee.

12                  “(d) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet at the  
13                  call of the Chairman, but not fewer than three times dur-  
14                  ing each fiscal year, beginning in the fiscal year following  
15                  the fiscal year in which this section is enacted.

16                  “(e) REPORT.—Following the date on which the  
17                  Committee submits to the Secretary the report under sub-  
18                  section (b)(4), the Secretary shall submit to the Commit-  
19                  tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the House of  
20                  Representatives a report containing the following:

21                         “(1) A copy of the Committee report, together  
22                         with the comments of the Secretary on the report.

23                         “(2) An explanation of the criteria and ration-  
24                         ale that the Secretary used to determine that the  
25                         program of acupuncturist services under section

1       1720J of this title was fully implemented, as de-  
2       scribed in such subsection (b)(4).

3               “(3) The views of the Secretary regarding the  
4       future implementation of such program.”.

5               (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
6       tions at the beginning of such chapter is amended  
7       by inserting after the item relating to section 546  
8       the following new item:

          “547. Advisory committee on acupuncturist services.”.

9       (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

10              (1) AUTHORITY FOR APPOINTMENTS.—Section  
11       7401(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended  
12       by inserting “acupuncturists,” after “chiroprac-  
13       tors,”.

14              (2) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENTS.—Section 7403  
15       of such title is amended by adding at the end the  
16       following new subparagraph:

17                      “(I) Acupuncturists.”.

18              (3) PAY.—

19                      (A) SCALE.—Section 7404 of such title is  
20       amended—

21                              (i) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting  
22                              “, acupuncturists,” after “physicians”; and

23                              (ii) in the list in subsection (b), by in-  
24                              serting “, ACUPUNCTURIST,” after  
25                              “PHYSICIAN”.

1 (B) TREATMENT.—Section 7431 of title  
2 38, United States Code, is amended by adding  
3 at the end the following new subsection:

4 “(i) TREATMENT OF ACUPUNCTURISTS.—For pur-  
5 poses of this subchapter, an acupuncturist is deemed to  
6 be a physician.”.

7 (4) MALPRACTICE AND NEGLIGENCE SUITS.—  
8 Section 7316(a)(2) of such title is amended by in-  
9 serting “acupuncturist,” after “chiropractor,”.

10 (5) HOURS AND CONDITIONS.—Section 7421(b)  
11 of such title is amended by adding at the end the  
12 following new paragraph:

13 “(9) Acupuncturists.”.

14 (6) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
15 by paragraph (4) apply with respect to services pro-  
16 vided on or after the date that is 270 days after the  
17 date of enactment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 7. COVERAGE FOR ACUPUNCTURIST SERVICES UNDER**  
19 **THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861 of the Social Secu-  
21 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (s)(2)—

23 (A) by striking “and” at the end of sub-  
24 paragraph (GG);



1 (B) by adding “and” at the end of sub-  
2 paragraph (HH); and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
4 subparagraph:

5 “(II) qualified acupuncturist services (as de-  
6 fined in subsection (jjj)(1));”; and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
8 section:

9 “Qualified Acupuncturist Services

10 “(jjj)(1) The term ‘qualified acupuncturist services’  
11 means such services furnished by a qualified acupuncturist  
12 (as defined in paragraph (2)), and such services and sup-  
13 plies furnished as an incident to services furnished by the  
14 qualified acupuncturist, as the qualified acupuncturist is  
15 legally authorized to perform under State law.

16 “(2) The term ‘qualified acupuncturist’ has the  
17 meaning given such term in section 2 of the Acupuncture  
18 for Heroes and Seniors Act of 2019.”.

19 (b) PAYMENT RULES.—

20 (1) PAYMENT UNDER PHYSICIAN FEE SCHED-  
21 ULE.—Section 1848(j)(3) of the Social Security Act  
22 (42 U.S.C. 1395w–4(j)(3)) is amended by inserting  
23 “(2)(GG),” before “(3),”.

24 (2) SEPARATE PAYMENT FOR SERVICES OF IN-  
25STITUTIONAL PROVIDERS.—Section 1833(a)(2)(B)

1 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
2 1395l(a)(2)(B)) is amended—

3 (A) in clause (i), by inserting “and in the  
4 case of qualified acupuncturist services,” after  
5 “1999,”;

6 (B) in clause (ii), by inserting “or in the  
7 case of qualified acupuncturist services,” after  
8 “1999,”; and

9 (C) in clause (iii), by inserting “(other  
10 than qualified acupuncturist services)” after  
11 “such services”.

12 (3) QUALIFIED ACUPUNCTURIST TREATMENT  
13 AS A PRACTITIONER.—Section 1842(b)(18)(C) of the  
14 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(b)(18)(C)) is  
15 amended by adding at the end the following new  
16 clause:

17 “(vii) A qualified acupuncturist (as defined in  
18 section 1861(jjj)(2)).”.

19 (4) SEPARATE BILLING FOR ACUPUNCTURIST  
20 SERVICES FURNISHED IN AN INPATIENT HOSPITAL  
21 SETTING.—Section 1861(b)(4) of the Social Security  
22 Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(b)(4)) is amended by insert-  
23 ing “qualified acupuncturist services,” after “quali-  
24 fied psychologist services,”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section apply with respect to services furnished on or  
3 after the date that is 270 days after the date of enactment  
4 of this Act.

5 **SEC. 8. ACUPUNCTURISTS IN THE REGULAR CORPS AND**  
6 **THE READY RESERVE CORPS OF THE PUBLIC**  
7 **HEALTH SERVICE.**

8 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPOINTMENT.—Section  
9 207 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 209) is  
10 amended—

11 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “acupunc-  
12 ture,” after “nursing,”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(j) APPOINTMENT OF QUALIFIED  
15 ACUPUNCTURISTS.—

16 “(1) ELIGIBILITY.—Acupuncturists shall be eli-  
17 gible for appointment as officers in the commis-  
18 sioned Regular Corps and the Ready Reserve Corps  
19 of the Public Health Service.

20 “(2) QUALIFICATION; TRAINING, EQUIPMENT,  
21 AND PREPARATION.—The Secretary shall ensure  
22 that acupuncturists in the commissioned Regular  
23 Corps and in the Ready Reserve Corps—

1           “(A) are qualified acupuncturists (as de-  
2           fined in section 2 of the Acupuncture for He-  
3           roes and Seniors Act of 2019); and

4           “(B) are trained, equipped, and otherwise  
5           prepared to fulfill applicable public health and  
6           emergency response service responsibilities in  
7           the Commissioned Corps.”.

8           (b) REQUIRED PLACEMENT.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
10          the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
11          Health and Human Services shall ensure the ap-  
12          pointment of no fewer than 6 acupuncturists into  
13          the commissioned Regular Corps and the Ready Re-  
14          serve Corps of the Public Health Service.

15          (2) REPORTS.—Not later than 120 days after  
16          the date of enactment of this Act, and quarterly  
17          thereafter, the Surgeon General of the Public Health  
18          Service shall submit to the Committee on Energy  
19          and Commerce of the House of Representatives and  
20          the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
21          Pensions of the Senate a report on all measures  
22          taken by the President, the Surgeon General, and  
23          the Secretary of Health and Human Services to  
24          carry out the provisions of this section, including the  
25          amendments made by this section.