

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 411

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into agreements with States and nonprofit organizations to collaborate in the provision of case management services associated with certain supported housing programs for veterans, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. NELSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into agreements with States and nonprofit organizations to collaborate in the provision of case management services associated with certain supported housing programs for veterans, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Helping Our Homeless  
5 Veterans Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. COLLABORATION IN PROVISION OF CASE MANAGE-**  
 2 **MENT SERVICES TO VETERANS IN SUP-**  
 3 **PORTED HOUSING PROGRAM.**

4 (a) COLLABORATION AUTHORIZED.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 20  
 6 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by add-  
 7 ing at the end the following new section:

8 **“§ 2045. Collaboration in provision of case manage-**  
 9 **ment services to veterans in supported**  
 10 **housing program**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may enter into  
 12 agreements with eligible entities to collaborate in the pro-  
 13 vision of case management services as part of the sup-  
 14 ported housing program carried out under section  
 15 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42  
 16 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) to expand and improve the provision  
 17 of supported housing services and related outreach to vet-  
 18 erans, including veterans who live in rural areas or under-  
 19 served veterans who live in metropolitan areas or on In-  
 20 dian lands.

21 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of this sec-  
 22 tion, an eligible entity is any entity that—

23 “(1) is—

24 “(A) a State or local government agency;

25 “(B) a tribal organization (as such term is  
 26 defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-

1           mination and Education Assistance Act (25  
2           U.S.C. 450b)); or

3           “(C) a nonprofit organization;

4           “(2) has the capacity (as determined by the  
5           Secretary) to collaborate in the provision of case  
6           management services as described in subsection (a);  
7           and

8           “(3) agrees—

9           “(A) to ensure access to case management  
10          services to veterans described in subsection (a)  
11          on an as-needed basis;

12          “(B) to maintain referral networks for  
13          homeless veterans for purposes of assisting such  
14          veterans in demonstrating eligibility for assist-  
15          ance and additional services under entitlement  
16          and assistance programs available for such vet-  
17          erans, and to otherwise aid such veterans in ob-  
18          taining such assistance and services;

19          “(C) to ensure the confidentiality of  
20          records maintained by the entity on veterans re-  
21          ceiving services through the supported housing  
22          program described in subsection (a);

23          “(D) to establish such procedures for fiscal  
24          control and fund accounting as the Secretary  
25          considers appropriate to ensure proper dis-

1           bursement and accounting of funds under the  
2           agreement entered into by the entity under this  
3           section;

4           “(E) to submit to the Secretary each year,  
5           in such form and such manner as the Secretary  
6           may require, a report on the collaboration un-  
7           dertaken by the entity under this section, in-  
8           cluding a description of—

9                   “(i) the services and assistance pro-  
10                  vided to veterans as part of such collabora-  
11                  tion; and

12                   “(ii) the specific goals set by the enti-  
13                  ty for the provision of such services and  
14                  assistance and whether the entity achieved  
15                  such goals; and

16           “(F) to meet such other requirements as  
17           the Secretary considers appropriate for pur-  
18           poses of this section.

19           “(c) SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—(1) Not  
20           later than one year after the date of the enactment of this  
21           section, the Secretary shall establish a process for the re-  
22           ceipt and consideration of proposals submitted under  
23           paragraph (2), including the appropriate form, manner,  
24           and time for submittal of such proposals.

1       “(2) An eligible entity seeking to enter into an agree-  
2 ment under this section shall submit to the Secretary a  
3 proposal therefor in accordance with the process estab-  
4 lished by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (1).

5       “(3) Each proposal submitted under paragraph (2)  
6 shall set forth a description of the collaboration proposed  
7 to be undertaken by the entity concerned, including the  
8 following:

9           “(A) A description of the region in which the  
10 entity proposes to collaborate in the provision of case  
11 management services described in subsection (a), in-  
12 cluding a description of resources and services al-  
13 ready available to veterans described in such sub-  
14 section in such region and a description of any gaps  
15 in such resources and services available to veterans  
16 in such region.

17           “(B) A description of the veterans described in  
18 subsection (a) in the region described in subpara-  
19 graph (A) and the needs of such veterans for sup-  
20 ported housing services.

21           “(C) A description of the capacity of the entity  
22 to provide services to veterans described in subpara-  
23 graph (B) to meet their needs for the services de-  
24 scribed in such subparagraph.

1           “(D) Plans, specifications, and a schedule for  
2           the provision of case management services under  
3           subsection (a).

4           “(d) CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES.—For purposes  
5           of this section, case management services include the fol-  
6           lowing:

7           “(1) Personal health and development assist-  
8           ance, including such assistance relating to the fol-  
9           lowing:

10           “(A) Health care and referrals for health  
11           care.

12           “(B) Mental health.

13           “(C) Substance abuse.

14           “(D) Counseling.

15           “(E) Family support.

16           “(F) Benefits and employment counseling.

17           “(G) Job training and placement.

18           “(H) Education on personal finance.

19           “(I) Hygiene facilities.

20           “(J) Meals.

21           “(K) Transportation.

22           “(2) Housing assistance for veterans, including:

23           “(A) Assistance locating affordable hous-  
24           ing, assistance with scheduling appointments to  
25           view available housing, accompanying veterans

1 when viewing available housing, assistance with  
2 negotiating leases, and assistance with review-  
3 ing tenant leases.

4 “(B) Rental and rent subsidies.

5 “(C) Assistance in working with public  
6 housing agencies.

7 “(D) Assistance in understanding lease  
8 terms and landlord and tenant laws.

9 “(E) Assistance in understanding fair  
10 housing laws.

11 “(F) Assistance in the resolution or pre-  
12 vention of mortgage delinquency, including as-  
13 sistance with matters relating to default, fore-  
14 closure, loss mitigation, budgeting, and credit.

15 “(G) Assistance with home maintenance  
16 and financial management.

17 “(H) Such other assistance in connection  
18 with locating housing and maintaining housing  
19 stability as the Secretary considers appropriate.

20 “(3) Such other case management services, out-  
21 reach, and other services as the Secretary considers  
22 appropriate.”.

23 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
24 tions at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is

1 amended by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
2 tion 2044 the following new item:

“2045. Collaboration in provision of case management services to veterans in supported housing program.”.

3 (b) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years  
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
6 retary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress  
7 a report on the collaboration of the Secretary in the  
8 provision of case management services under section  
9 2045 of title 38, United States Code (as added by  
10 subsection (a)).

11 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report under paragraph  
12 (1) shall include the following:

13 (A) The number of eligible entities with  
14 whom the Secretary has entered into an agree-  
15 ment under section 2045 of title 38, United  
16 States Code (as so added).

17 (B) A description of the geographic regions  
18 in which such eligible entities provide services  
19 under such section.

20 (C) The number of veterans who received  
21 case management services from eligible entities  
22 under such section, disaggregated by—

23 (i) underserved veterans in metropoli-  
24 tan areas;



1 (ii) underserved veterans who live on  
2 Indian lands; and

3 (iii) veterans in rural areas.

4 (D) An assessment of the feasibility and  
5 advisability of entering into agreements with el-  
6 igible entities under such section.

7 (E) Such recommendations for legislative  
8 or administrative action as the Secretary con-  
9 siders appropriate for the improvement of the  
10 authorities on collaboration in the provision of  
11 case management services under such section.

12 **SEC. 3. DISTRIBUTION OF RENTAL VOUCHERS TO VET-**  
13 **ERANS IN RURAL AREAS AND UNDERSERVED**  
14 **VETERANS IN METROPOLITAN AREAS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 20 of  
16 title 38, United States Code, as amended by section  
17 2(a)(1), is further amended by adding at the end the fol-  
18 lowing new section:

19 **“§ 2046. Distribution of rental vouchers to veterans in**  
20 **rural areas and underserved veterans in**  
21 **metropolitan areas**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in consulta-  
23 tion with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-  
24 ment, ensure that the distribution of vouchers to veterans  
25 under the supported housing program carried out under

1 section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937  
 2 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) meets the needs of veterans in  
 3 rural areas and underserved veterans in metropolitan  
 4 areas or on Indian lands in each region of the United  
 5 States by using—

6 “(1) statistical data and analysis;

7 “(2) recommendations from any recipients of  
 8 grants under the Continuum of Care Program set  
 9 forth under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-  
 10 Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et  
 11 seq.); or

12 “(3) such other means as Secretary considers  
 13 appropriate.

14 “(b) AGREEMENTS WITH NONPROFIT AND STATE  
 15 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.—The Secretary  
 16 shall consider how agreements under section 2045(a) of  
 17 this title can be used to ensure the distribution of vouchers  
 18 as described in subsection (a) of this section.”.

19 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
 20 at the beginning of chapter 20 of such title is amended  
 21 by inserting after the item relating to section 2045, as  
 22 added by section 2(a)(2), the following new item:

“2046. Distribution of rental vouchers to veterans in rural areas and under-  
 served veterans in metropolitan areas.”.

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