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(Original Signature of Member)

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a
assured adequate level of funding for veterans health care.

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 “Assured Funding for
5 Veterans Health Care Act of 2003”.



1 **SEC. 2. ASSURANCE OF ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR VET-**
2 **ERANS HEALTH CARE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 3 of title 38, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new section:

6 **“§ 320. Assured funding for veterans health care**

7 “(a) For each fiscal year, the Secretary of the Treas-
8 ury shall make available to the Secretary of Veterans Af-
9 fairs the amount determined under subsection (b) with re-
10 spect to that fiscal year. Each such amount is available,
11 without fiscal year limitation, for the programs, functions,
12 and activities of the Veterans Health Administration, as
13 specified in subsection (c).

14 “(b)(1) The amount applicable to fiscal year 2005
15 under this subsection is the amount equal to 130 percent
16 of the amount obligated by the Department during fiscal
17 year 2003 for the purposes specified in subsection (c).

18 “(2) The amount applicable to any fiscal year after
19 fiscal year 2005 under this subsection is the amount equal
20 to the product of the following:

21 “(A) The sum of—

22 “(i) the number of veterans enrolled in the
23 Department health care system under section
24 1705 of this title as of July 1 preceding the be-
25 ginning of such fiscal year; and



1 “(ii) the number of persons eligible for
2 health care under chapter 17 of this title who
3 are not covered by clause (i) and who were pro-
4 vided hospital care or medical services under
5 such chapter at any time during the fiscal year
6 preceding such fiscal year.

7 “(B) The per capita baseline amount, as in-
8 creased from time to time pursuant to paragraph
9 (3)(B).

10 “(3)(A) For purposes of paragraph (2)(B), the term
11 ‘per capita baseline amount’ means the amount equal to—

12 “(i) the amount specified in paragraph (1), di-
13 vided by

14 “(ii) the number of veterans enrolled in the De-
15 partment health care system under section 1705 of
16 this title as of September 30, 2003.

17 “(B) With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary
18 shall provide a percentage increase (rounded to the near-
19 est dollar) in the per capita baseline amount equal to the
20 percentage by which—

21 “(i) the Consumer Price Index (all Urban Con-
22 sumers, United States City Average, Hospital and
23 related services, Seasonally Adjusted), published by
24 the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of
25 Labor for the 12-month period ending on the June



1 30 preceding the beginning of the fiscal year for
2 which the increase is made, exceeds

3 “(ii) such Consumer Price Index for the 12-
4 month period preceeding the 12-month period de-
5 scribed in clause (i).

6 “(c)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the pur-
7 poses for which amounts made available pursuant to sub-
8 section (a) shall be all programs, functions, and activities
9 of the Veterans Health Administration.

10 “(2) Amounts made available pursuant to subsection
11 (a) are not available for—

12 “(A) construction, acquisition, or alteration of
13 medical facilities as provided in subchapter I of
14 chapter 81 of this title (other than for such repairs
15 as were provided for before the the date of the en-
16 actment of this section through the Medical Care ap-
17 propriation for the Department); or

18 “(B) grants under subchapter III of chapter 81
19 of this title.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
21 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding
22 at the end the following new item:

“320. Assured funding for veterans health care.”.

