

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 809

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to display in each facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs a Women Veterans Bill of Rights.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2011

Mr. FILNER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

---

## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to display in each facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs a Women Veterans Bill of Rights.

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. DISPLAY OF WOMEN VETERANS BILL OF**  
4 **RIGHTS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans  
6 Affairs shall ensure that the Women Veterans Bill of  
7 Rights described in subsection (b) is—

8 (1) displayed prominently in each facility of the  
9 Department of Veterans Affairs; and

10 (2) distributed widely to women veterans.

1 (b) WOMEN VETERANS BILL OF RIGHTS.—The  
2 Women Veterans Bill of Rights described in this sub-  
3 section is a sign stating that women veterans should have  
4 the following rights:

5 (1) The right to a coordinated, comprehensive,  
6 primary women’s health care, at every Department  
7 of Veterans Affairs medical facility, including the  
8 recognized models of best practices, systems, and  
9 structures for care delivery that ensure that every  
10 woman veteran has access to a Department of Vet-  
11 erans Affairs primary care provider who can meet all  
12 her primary care needs, including gender-specific,  
13 acute and chronic illness, preventive, and mental  
14 health care.

15 (2) The right to be treated with dignity and re-  
16 spect at all Department of Veterans Affairs facili-  
17 ties.

18 (3) The right to innovation in care delivery pro-  
19 moted and incentivized by the Veterans Health Ad-  
20 ministration to support local best practices fitted to  
21 the particular configuration and women veteran pop-  
22 ulation.

23 (4) The right to request and get treatment by  
24 clinicians with specific training and experience in  
25 women’s health issues.

1           (5) The right to enhanced capabilities of med-  
2           ical providers, clinical support, non-clinical, and ad-  
3           ministrative, to meet the comprehensive health care  
4           needs of women veterans.

5           (6) The right to request and expect gender eq-  
6           uity in provision of clinical health care services.

7           (7) The right to equal access to health care  
8           services as that of their male counterparts.

9           (8) The right to parity to their male veteran  
10          counterpart regarding the outcome of performance  
11          measures of health care services.

12          (9) The right to be informed, through outreach  
13          campaigns, of benefits under laws administered by  
14          the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and to be included  
15          in Department outreach materials for any benefits  
16          and service to which they are entitled.

17          (10) The right to be featured proportionately,  
18          including by age and ethnicity, in Department out-  
19          reach materials, including electronic and print media  
20          that clearly depict them as being the recipient of the  
21          benefits and services provided by the Department.

22          (11) The right to be recognized as an important  
23          separate population in new strategic plans for serv-  
24          ice delivery within the health care system of the De-  
25          partment of Veterans Affairs.

1           (12) The right to equal consideration in hiring  
2           and employment for any job to which they apply.

3           (13) The right to equal consideration in secur-  
4           ing Federal contracts.

5           (14) The right to equal access and accommoda-  
6           tions in homeless programs that will meet their  
7           unique family needs.

8           (15) The right to have their claims adjudicated  
9           equally, fairly, and accurately without bias or dis-  
10          parate treatment.

11          (16) The right to have their military sexual  
12          trauma and other injuries compensated in a way  
13          that reflects the level of trauma sustained.

14          (17) The right to expect that all veteran service  
15          officers, especially those who are trained by the De-  
16          partment of Veterans Affairs Training Responsibility  
17          Involvement Preparation program for claims proc-  
18          essing, are required to receive training to be aware  
19          of and sensitive to the signs of military sexual trau-  
20          ma, domestic violence, and personal assault.

21          (18) The right to the availability of female per-  
22          sonnel to assist them in the disability claims applica-  
23          tion and appellate processes of the Department.

24          (19) The right to the availability of female com-  
25          pensation and pension examiners.

1           (20) The right to expect specialized training be  
2 provided to disability rating personnel regarding  
3 military sexual trauma and gender-specific illnesses  
4 so that these claims can be adjudicated more accu-  
5 rately.

6           (21) The right to expect the collection of gen-  
7 der-specific data on disability ratings, for the per-  
8 formance of longitudinal and trend analyses, and for  
9 other applicable purposes.

10          (22) The right to a method to identify and  
11 track outcomes for all claims involving personal as-  
12 sault trauma, regardless of the resulting disability.

13          (23) The right for women veterans' programs  
14 and women veteran coordinators to be measured and  
15 evaluated for performance, consistency, and account-  
16 ability.

17          (24) The right to burial benefits under the laws  
18 administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

○