

WOMEN VETERANS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013

LEGISLATION TO COMPLEMENT VA'S PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Section-by-Section Summary

- **Sec. 1. Short title.**
 - Women Veterans and Other Health Care Improvements Act of 2013.

- **Sec. 2. Clarification that fertility counseling and treatment are medical services which the Secretary may furnish to veterans like other medical services.**
 - Ensures that fertility counseling and treatment are among the standard medical services that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides to veterans.
 - Enhances reproductive treatment and care delivery options available to severely wounded veterans, to include assisted reproductive technology.
 - Clarifies that advanced reproductive technology includes in vitro fertilization and other treatments in which both eggs and sperm are handled when clinically appropriate.

- **Sec.3. Reproductive treatment and care delivery for spouses and surrogates of veterans.**
 - Requires VA to provide fertility counseling and treatment to spouses and surrogates of veterans who have severe service-connected injuries that cause infertility.
 - Allows VA to coordinate fertility counseling and treatment for spouses or surrogates of veterans who do not have service-connected injuries that lead to infertility. The spouse or surrogate is responsible for their maternity care, and the VA is not required to certify or connect a surrogate to a veteran.
 - Requires VA to prescribe regulations to carry out this section within one year of enactment.

- **Sec. 4. Adoption assistance for severely wounded veterans**
 - Requires VA to provide adoption assistance to veterans who have severe service-connected injuries that cause infertility.
 - Allows the VA to pay in adoption assistance of the lesser of the cost of adopting three children or going through one cycle of in vitro fertilization.

- **Sec. 5. Annual report on provision of fertility counseling and treatment furnished by Department of Veterans Affairs**
 - Requires VA to provide the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and the House Veterans Affairs Committee with a yearly report on fertility counseling and treatments provided by the VA, including the number of veterans and spouses and surrogates who received treatment, the total cost of providing that counseling treatment, the average cost of providing fertility counseling and treatment, the average number of IVF cycles per person, and a description of how VA's fertility treatments are coordinated with the Department OF Defense's fertility treatments.

- **Sec. 6. Regulations on furnishing of fertility counseling and treatment and adoption assistance by Department of Veterans Affairs**
 - Requires VA to issue regulations on the furnishing of fertility treatments to veterans using assisted reproductive technology within 540 days of this bill's enactment.

WOMEN VETERANS AND OTHER HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2013

LEGISLATION TO COMPLEMENT VA'S PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- **Sec. 7. Coordination between Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense on furnishing fertility counseling and treatment.**
 - Directs VA to and the Department of Defense to share best practices and facilitate referrals for assisted reproductive technology counseling and treatment.
- **Sec. 8. Facilitation of reproduction and infertility research.**
 - Directs VA to build upon existing research framework to facilitate more research on the long-term reproductive health care needs of veterans, from those who experience gender-specific infections to those who experience severe reproductive and urinary tract trauma in the battlefield.
 - Requires VA to disseminate research findings throughout VHA.
 - Requires VA to report to Congress on progress after three years.
- **Sec. 9. Requirement to improve Department of Veterans Affairs Women Veterans Contact Center.**
 - Requires VA to enhance capabilities at its existing women veterans call center in order to allow women veterans to call in to the call center and obtain information about VA health care and benefits when they need it.
- **Sec. 10. Modification of pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service in the Armed Forces.**
 - Permits additional time and funding authorization to fully execute a previously authorized pilot program that provides readjustment counseling to women veterans in group retreat settings.
- **Sec.11. Programs on assistance for child care for certain veterans.**
 - Directs VA to provide child care to veterans who seek readjustment counseling and mental health care at VA's Vet Centers.
- **Sec. 12. Contractor user fees**
 - Requires VA to impose a fee on all VA contracts, with the exception of contracts with small businesses. The fee will be whichever is less: 7 percent of the contract value, or the percentage by which the value of contracts per fiscal year exceeds the total cost of fertility counseling and treatment.
 - Creates the Department of Veterans Affairs Fertility Counseling and Treatment Fund to deposit the fees collected.