

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish improvements and structural alterations as part of home health services for disabled veterans.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish improvements and structural alterations as part of home health services for disabled veterans.

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 “Autonomy for Disabled
5 Veterans Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATION TO AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF**
2 **VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH IMPROVE-**
3 **MENTS AND STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS AS**
4 **PART OF HOME HEALTH SERVICES FOR DIS-**
5 **ABLED VETERANS.**

6 (a) INCREASE.—Paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of
7 section 1717 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

8 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
9 by inserting “in the case of a veteran” before the em
10 dash; and

11 (2) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and
12 inserting the following:

13 “(A) who first applied for benefits under this
14 paragraph for a non-service-connected disability be-
15 fore the date of the enactment of the Autonomy for
16 Disabled Veterans Act and whose disability the Sec-
17 retary determines is service-connected after such
18 date, \$6,800; or

19 “(B) who first applied for benefits under this
20 paragraph on or after the date of the enactment of
21 the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act, \$10,000.”.

22 (b) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION; CAP ON BENE-
23 FITS.—Such subsection is further amended—

24 (1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as para-
25 graph (5); and

1 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
2 lowing new paragraphs:

3 “(3) On the first day of each fiscal year, the dollar
4 amounts in effect under paragraph (2) shall—

5 “(A) increase by a percentage equal to the per-
6 centage by which the residential home cost of con-
7 struction index established under section 2102(e)(3)
8 of this title increased during the previous fiscal year;
9 or

10 “(B) if such index did not increase during such
11 previous fiscal year, remain the same.

12 “(4) The Secretary may not furnish more than three
13 improvements or structural alterations under paragraph
14 (2) to a veteran.”.

15 (c) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—A veteran who, before
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, exhausted the eligi-
17 bility of such veteran for benefits under section 1717 of
18 title 38, United States Code, shall not be entitled to addi-
19 tional benefits under such section by reason of the amend-
20 ments made by this Act.