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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assign physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs to temporarily serve as traveling physicians in the territories and possessions of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. KING-HINDS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to assign physicians of the Department of Veterans Affairs to temporarily serve as traveling physicians in the territories and possessions of the United States, 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 “the Territorial Re-
5 sponse and Access to Veterans’ Essential Lifecare Act”
6 or the “TRAVEL Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS ASSIGNMENT OF**
2 **TRAVELING PHYSICIANS TO SERVE TERRI-**
3 **TORIES AND POSSESSIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 74 of title
5 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
6 the following new section:

7 **“§ 7415. Traveling physicians**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may assign a phy-
9 sician appointed under section 7401 of this title to serve
10 as a traveling physician for a period of not more than one
11 year. A traveling physician shall provide health care to vet-
12 erans residing in American Samoa, Guam, the Common-
13 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Common-
14 wealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United
15 States, and any other territory or possession of the United
16 States at Department facilities located in such territories
17 and possessions.

18 “(b) COORDINATION OF CARE.—In providing care
19 under this section, traveling physicians shall coordinate
20 with non-Department medical providers to the extent nec-
21 essary to ensure high quality and coordinated care for vet-
22 erans receiving hospital care and medical services.

23 “(c) PAY.—In addition to pay under section 7431 of
24 this title, the Secretary shall provide a relocation or reten-
25 tion bonus to traveling physicians under this section. A
26 relocation or retention bonus under this subsection shall

1 be substantially similar to a relocation or retention bonus
2 offered under sections 5753 and 5754, respectively, of title
3 5, as the Secretary considers appropriate.”.

4 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
5 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
6 after the item relating to section 7414 the following new
7 item:

“7415. Traveling physicians.”.