



**H.R. 2623 – To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the collection of copayments for all hospice care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Floor Situation**

H.R. 2623 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL) on June 7, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, by voice vote, on July 17, 2007.

H.R. 2623 is scheduled to be considered on the floor on July 30, 2007.

**Summary**

H.R. 2623 would exempt all hospice care provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from co-payment requirements. This legislation would enable the VA to provide hospice care to eligible veterans without collecting copayments.

**Background**

Under current law, a veteran receiving hospice care in a nursing home is exempt from any applicable co-payments. However, if the hospice care is provided in any other setting, such as at home, the veteran may be subject to an inpatient or outpatient primary care co-payment.

**Cost**

“CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2623 would decrease collections by less than \$500,000 each year and by about \$2 million over the 2008-2012 period. Those collections are considered to be offsets to discretionary appropriations. As part of the annual appropriations process, the Congress gives VA authority to spend those collections. Therefore, if it wished to maintain the same level of health care services for veterans, the Congress would need to appropriate additional funds each year to make up for the loss of copayments under this bill. Under those circumstances, implementing H.R. 2623 would cost about \$2 million over the 2008-2012 period. Enacting this bill would not affect direct spending or receipts.” [Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate](#)

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