

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1646

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Ms. UNDERWOOD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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 “Lactation Spaces for
5 Veteran Moms Act”.

6 SEC. 2. LACTATION SPACES IN MEDICAL CENTERS OF THE 7 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of
9 title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new section:

1 “§ 1720M. Lactation spaces in medical centers of the

2 Department

3 “(a) LACTATION SPACE REQUIRED.—The Secretary
4 shall ensure that each medical center of the Department
5 contains a lactation space.

6 "(b) No UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY.—Nothing in this
7 section shall be construed to authorize an individual to
8 enter a medical center of the Department or portion there-
9 of that the individual is not otherwise authorized to enter.

10 "(c) LACTATION SPACE DEFINED.—In this section,
11 the term 'lactation space' means a hygienic place, other
12 than a bathroom, that—

13 “(1) is shielded from view;

14 “(2) is free from intrusion;

15 “(3) is accessible to disabled individuals (in-
16 cluding such individuals who use wheelchairs);

17 " (4) contains a chair and a working surface;

18 “(5) is easy to locate;

19 “(6) is clearly identified with signage; and

20 “(7) is available for use by women veterans and
21 members of the public to express breast milk.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
24 after the item related to section 1720L the following new
25 item:

“1720M. Lactation spaces in medical centers of the Department.”.

1 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The Secretary of Veterans
2 Affairs shall carry out section 1720M of title 38, United
3 States Code, as added by this section, not later than two
4 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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