

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that women veterans may schedule appointments for women’s specialty care under the laws administered by the Secretary without requiring a referral, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the following bill;  
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

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**A BILL**

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that women veterans may schedule appointments for women’s specialty care under the laws administered by the Secretary without requiring a referral, 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 “Women Veterans Spe-  
5 cialty Care Access Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DIRECT SCHEDULING OF WOMEN'S SPECIALTY**  
2 **CARE FOR WOMEN VETERANS.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
4 shall ensure that any covered veteran may directly sched-  
5 ule an appointment for women's specialty care, including  
6 through the Veterans Community Care Program under  
7 section 1703 of title 38, United States Code, without re-  
8 quiring a referral from a primary care provider of the De-  
9 partment of Veterans Affairs.

10 (b) **AVAILABILITY.**—The Secretary shall ensure that  
11 direct scheduling under subsection (a) is available—

12 (1) through each medical center or clinic of the  
13 Department that offers women's specialty care; and

14 (2) via telephone, online scheduling tools, and  
15 any other modality used by the Department for  
16 scheduling of specialty care.

17 (c) **PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE**  
18 **BARRIERS.**—The Secretary may not require any addi-  
19 tional approval, referral, or screening step as a condition  
20 of a covered veteran accessing women's specialty care.

21 (d) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-  
22 tion shall be construed to alter or waive eligibility or access  
23 standards for the receipt of care or services under section  
24 1703 of title 38, United States Code.

25 (e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

1           (1) COVERED VETERAN.—The term “covered  
2           veteran” means a woman veteran enrolled in the sys-  
3           tem of annual patient enrollment of the Department  
4           of Veterans Affairs established and operated under  
5           section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, who  
6           is eligible for the receipt of women’s specialty care  
7           under the laws administered by the Secretary.

8           (2) WOMEN’S SPECIALTY CARE.—The term  
9           “women’s specialty care” means gynecology care, ob-  
10          stetrics care, maternity care, and postpartum care.