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# A BILL

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To amend the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to authorize the use of up to \$2.5 billion provided for the Veterans Choice Fund for Veterans' Care in the Community programs, and up to \$500 million for Hepatitis C pharmaceutical expenses, in fiscal year 2015.

*Be in enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of  
the United States of America in Congress assembled.*

**SEC 1. AUTHORIZATION OF THE USE OF VETERANS CHOICE FUND FOR CARE IN  
THE COMMUNITY AND HEPATITIS C PHARMACEUTICALS.**

Section 802 is amended as follows:

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), replacing “IN GENERAL” with “EXPANDED AVAILABILITY OF  
HOSPITAL CARE AND SERVICES”;

(B) in paragraph (1), replacing “shall” with “may”;

(C) by adding new paragraph (3):

“OTHER NON-VA TREATMENT AND HEPATITIS C.— Of the amounts deposited in the Veterans Choice Fund, not to exceed \$3,000,000,000, for fiscal year 2015 only, may be used for health care under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code furnished through non-Department of Veterans Affairs providers and for pharmaceutical expenses incident to the authorized treatment of Hepatitis C. Within this amount, not to exceed \$500,000,000 may be used for pharmaceutical expenses incident to the authorized treatment of Hepatitis C. These amounts shall be available in addition to amounts available in the Medical Services account and may be used for expenses incurred on or after May 1, 2015, including those expenses previously recorded as obligations of the Medical Services account.”

- (2) in subsection (d), by replacing “only for the program created under section 101, and” with “only for the purposes described in subsection (c)” in paragraph (1).
- (3) by striking subsection (e).

**SEC. 2. EMERGENCY DESIGNATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—This Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4(g) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(g)).

(b) DESIGNATION IN SENATE.—In the Senate, this Act is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 403(a) of S. Con. Res. 13 (111th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2010.

**Description:**

At present, the Veterans Choice Fund established by section 802 of the VACAA is only available for expenses necessary to carry out the Choice program created under section 101 of the VACAA. This provision would amend section 802 to make the Veterans Choice Fund available to legally augment the Medical Services appropriations account in FY 2015 with respect to the funding of (1) non-Choice externally-purchased care and (2) Hepatitis C pharmaceuticals. Such expenses could be paid directly from the Veterans Choice Fund, but only up the dollar limits specified. This language would make it clear that VA could adjust its accounts so that obligations previously incurred on May 1, 2015 (or later) by the Medical Services account could be charged to the Veterans Choice Fund instead.