

2013 National Defense Authorization Act: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr4310enr/pdf/BILLS-112hr4310enr.pdf>

SEC. 705. PILOT PROGRAM ON CERTAIN TREATMENTS OF AUTISM UNDER THE TRICARE PROGRAM.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a pilot program to provide for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders, including applied behavior analysis.

(2) COMMENCEMENT.—The Secretary shall commence the pilot program under paragraph (1) by not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) DURATION.—The Secretary may not carry out the pilot program under subsection (a)(1) for longer than a one-year period.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date on which the pilot program under subsection (a)(1) commences, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the pilot program. The report shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of establishing a beneficiary cost share for the treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

(2) A comparison of providing such treatment under—

(A) the ECHO Program; and

(B) the TRICARE program other than under the ECHO Program.

(3) Any recommendations for changes in legislation.

(4) Any additional information the Secretary considers appropriate.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “ECHO Program” means the Extended Care Health Option under subsections (d) through (f) of section 1079 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) The term “TRICARE program” has the meaning given that term in section 1072(7) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 735. STUDY ON HEALTH CARE AND RELATED SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES. {TRICARE for Kids Report}

(a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense shall conduct a study on the health care and related support provided by the Secretary to dependent children.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The study under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A comprehensive review of the policies of the Secretary and the TRICARE program with respect to providing pediatric care.

(2) An assessment of access to pediatric health care by dependent children in appropriate settings.

(3) An assessment of access to specialty care by dependent children, including care for children with special health care needs.

(4) A comprehensive review and analysis of reimbursement under the TRICARE program for pediatric care.

(5) An assessment of the adequacy of the ECHO Program in meeting the needs of dependent children with extraordinary health care needs.

(6) An assessment of the adequacy of care management for dependent children with special health care needs.

(7) An assessment of the support provided through other Department of Defense or military department programs and policies that support the physical and behavioral health of dependent children, including children with special health care needs.

(8) Mechanisms for linking dependent children with special health care needs with State and local community resources, including children's hospitals and providers of pediatric specialty care.

(9) Strategies to mitigate the impact of frequent relocations related to military service on the continuity of health care services for dependent children, including children with special health and behavioral health care needs.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the study under subsection (a), including—

(1) the findings of the study;

(2) a plan to improve and continuously monitor the access of dependent children to quality health care; and

(3) any recommendations for legislation that the Secretary considers necessary to maintain the highest quality of health care for dependent children.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term “dependent children” means the children of members of the Armed Forces who are covered beneficiaries under chapter 55 of title 10, United States Code.

(2) The term “ECHO Program” means the Extended Care Health Option under subsections (d) through (f) of section 1079 of title 10, United States Code.