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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a grant program for the transportation of veterans who reside in highly rural areas to medical facilities.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. PELTOLA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a grant program for the transportation of veterans who reside in highly rural areas to medical facilities.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR**  
2 **THE TRANSPORTATION OF VETERANS WHO**  
3 **RESIDE IN HIGHLY RURAL AREAS TO MED-**  
4 **ICAL FACILITIES.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Chapter 1 of title 38, United  
6 States Code, is amended by inserting, after section 111A,  
7 the following new section:

8 **“§ 111B. Grants for the transportation of veterans**  
9 **who reside in highly rural areas to med-**  
10 **ical facilities**

11 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall award  
12 grants to entities that provide transportation of veterans  
13 who reside in highly rural areas to medical facilities.

14 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The following may be  
15 awarded a grant under this section:

16 “(1) A State veterans service agency.

17 “(2) A veterans service organization.

18 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant under this section  
19 may be used to—

20 “(1) assist a veteran who resides in a highly  
21 rural area to travel to a medical facility of the De-  
22 partment; or

23 “(2) otherwise assist in providing transpor-  
24 tation in connection with the provision of health care  
25 to a veteran who resides in highly rural area.

1       “(d) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant  
2 under this section may not exceed \$50,000.

3       “(e) NO MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—An entity  
4 awarded a grant under this section shall not be required  
5 to provide matching funds as a condition for receiving  
6 such grant.

7       “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
8 is authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for each of  
9 fiscal years 2025 through 2030 to carry out this section.

10       “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11               “(1) The term ‘highly rural area’ means an  
12 area located in—

13                       “(A) a county in which fewer than seven  
14 individuals reside per square mile; or

15                       “(B) Guam, American Samoa, the Com-  
16 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,  
17 the United States Virgin Islands, or Puerto  
18 Rico (not including the San Juan Census Des-  
19 igned Place), that the Secretary determines is  
20 not urban in character.

21               “(2) The term ‘veterans service organization’  
22 means an organization recognized by the Secretary  
23 under section 5902 of this title.”.

24       “(b) TABLE OF SECTIONS.—The table of sections at  
25 the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting,

- 1 after the item relating to section 111A, the following new
- 2 item:

“111B. Grants for the transportation of veterans who reside in highly rural areas to medical facilities.”.