



U.S. Congressman  
**Nick Rahall**  
*WORKING FOR WEST VIRGINIANS*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RAHALL JOINS IN BEEFING UP P.O.W. BENEFITS**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV) has joined his colleague U.S. Rep. Doug Applegate (D-OH) in supporting legislation which would compel the Veterans Administration to offer outpatient medical services to former prisoners of war.

"As it stands now, you could have spent half of your life in an enemy camp and the government is not obligated to pay your outpatient expenses," said Rahall. "We have a chance to change that unbelievable fact."

The Applegate bill would make it a requirement to provide P.O.W.s with outpatient medical services. Currently, they may provide services if facilities are available.

"P.O.W.s suffered emotional duress equal to, sometimes even greater than, those who were physically impaired," said Rahall. "We want to see to it that if they are injured here at home, they will be provided for by the government."

"Americans who have given their emotional and physically well-being in defense of their country deserve fairness. This bill promises fairness," said Rahall.

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Cman - will you cosponsor this bill  
per requests - dm

See attached Constitution letter 77  
bc

Plus good

Press  
OPPORTUNITY

102D CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1598

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish outpatient medical services for any disability of a former prisoner of war.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 22, 1991

Mr. APPELGATE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish outpatient medical services for any disability of a former prisoner of war.

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

1 **SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY OF FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR**  
2 **TO RECEIVE OUTPATIENT MEDICAL SERV-**  
3 **ICES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS**  
4 **AFFAIRS.**

5 Section 612(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is  
6 amended—

7 (1) by striking out "and" at the end of clause  
8 (B);

9 (2) by striking out the period at the end of  
10 clause (C) and inserting in lieu thereof "; and"; and

11 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
12 clause:

13 "(D) to any former prisoner of war for any  
14 disability."



## VETERANS' BENEFITS

AS AMENDED THROUGH DECEMBER 30, 1988  
AND RELATED MATERIAL**§ 612. Eligibility for outpatient services**

(a)(1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Administrator shall furnish on an ambulatory or outpatient basis such medical services as the Administrator determines are needed—

(A) to any veteran for a service-connected disability (including a disability that was incurred or aggravated in line of duty and for which the veteran was discharged or released from the active military, naval, or air service);

(B) for any disability of a veteran who has a service-connected disability rated at 50 percent or more; and

(C) to any veteran for a disability for which the veteran is in receipt of compensation under section 351 of this title or for which the veteran would be entitled to compensation under that section but for a suspension pursuant to that section (but in the case of such a suspension, such medical services may be furnished only to the extent that such person's continuing eligibility for medical services is provided for in the judgment or settlement described in that section).

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(2) The Administrator shall furnish on an ambulatory or outpatient basis medical services for a purpose described in paragraph (5) of this subsection—

(A) to any veteran who has a service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or 40 percent; and

(B) to any veteran who is eligible for hospital care under section 610(a) of this title and whose annual income (as determined under section 503 of this title) does not exceed the maximum annual rate of pension that would be applicable to the veteran if the veteran were eligible for pension under section 521(d) of this title.

(3) The Administrator may furnish on an ambulatory or outpatient basis medical services which the Administrator determines are needed—

(A) to any veteran who is a former prisoner of war;

(B) to any veteran of the Mexican border period or of World War I; and

(C) to any veteran who is in receipt of increased pension or additional compensation or allowances based on the need of regular aid and attendance or by reason of being permanently housebound (or who, but for the receipt of retired pay, would be in receipt of such pension, compensation, or allowance).

(4) Subject to subsection (f) of this section, the Administrator may furnish on an ambulatory or outpatient basis medical services for a purpose described in paragraph (5) of this subsection to any veteran who is eligible for hospital care under section 610 of this title and who is not otherwise eligible for such services under this subsection.

(5)(A) Medical services for a purpose described in this paragraph are medical services reasonably necessary in preparation for hospital admission or to obviate the need of hospital admission. In the case of a veteran described in paragraph (4) of this subsection, services to obviate the need of hospital admission may be furnished only to the extent that facilities are available.

(B) In the case of a veteran who has been furnished hospital care, nursing home care, or domiciliary care, medical services for a purpose described in this paragraph include medical services reasonably necessary to complete treatment incident to such care. Such medical services may not be provided for a period in excess of 12 months after discharge from such care. However, the Administrator may authorize a longer period in any case if the Administrator finds that a longer period is required by reason of the disability being treated.

(6) In addition to furnishing medical services under this subsection through Veterans' Administration facilities, the Administrator may furnish such services in accordance with section 603 of this title.

(Amended P.L. 87-583, § 2; P.L. 94-581, §§ 103(a)(1), 210(a)(3)(A); P.L. 97-295, § 4(17)(A), (B); P.L. 99-272, § 19011(b); P.L. 99-576, § 202; P.L. 100-322, § 101(a),(b),(h).)

(b)(1) Outpatient dental services and treatment, and related dental appliances, shall be furnished under this section only for a dental condition or disability—