## AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5620 OFFERED BY MR. DUFFY OF WISCONSIN

Page 54, after line 2, insert the following:

1	SEC. 11. APPOINTMENT OF LICENSED HEARING AID SPE-
2	CIALISTS IN VETERANS HEALTH ADMINIS-
3	TRATION.
4	(a) Licensed Hearing Aid Specialists.—
5	(1) Appointment.—Section 7401(3) of title
6	38, United States Code, is amended by inserting "li-
7	censed hearing aid specialists," after "Audiol-
8	ogists,".
9	(2) Qualifications.—Section 7402(b)(14) of
10	such title is amended by inserting "licensed hearing
11	aid specialist," after "licensed physical therapist,".
12	(b) Annual Report.—
13	(1) In general.—Not later than one year
14	after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each
15	year thereafter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs
16	shall submit to Congress a report on the following:
17	(A) Timely access of veterans to hearing
18	health services through the Department of Vet-
19	erans Affairs.

1	(B) Contracting policies of the Department
2	with respect to providing hearing health serv-
3	ices to veterans in facilities that are not facili-
4	ties of the Department.
5	(2) Timely access to services.—Each re-
6	port shall, with respect to the matter specified in
7	paragraph (1)(A) for the one-year period preceding
8	the submittal of such report, include the following:
9	(A) The staffing levels of audiologists,
10	hearing aid specialists, and health technicians
11	in audiology in the Veterans Health Adminis-
12	tration.
13	(B) A description of the metrics used by
14	the Secretary in measuring performance with
15	respect to appointments and care relating to
16	hearing health.
17	(C) The average time that a veteran waits
18	to receive an appointment, beginning on the
19	date on which the veteran makes the request,
20	for the following:
21	(i) A disability rating evaluation for a
22	hearing-related disability.
23	(ii) A hearing aid evaluation.
24	(iii) Dispensing of hearing aids.

1	(iv) Any follow-up hearing health ap-
2	pointment.
3	(D) The percentage of veterans whose total
4	wait time for appointments described in sub-
5	paragraph (C), including an initial and follow-
6	up appointment, if applicable, is—
7	(i) less than 15 days;
8	(ii) between 15 days and 28 days;
9	(iii) between 29 days and 42 days;
10	(iv) between 43 days and 56 days; or
11	(v) more than 56 days.
12	(3) Contracting policies.—Each report
13	shall, with respect to the matter specified in para-
14	graph (1)(B) for the one-year period preceding the
15	submittal of such report, include the following:
16	(A) The number of veterans that the Sec-
17	retary refers to non-Department audiologists
18	for hearing health care appointments.
19	(B) The number of veterans that the Sec-
20	retary refers to non-Department hearing aid
21	specialists for follow-up appointments for a
22	hearing aid evaluation, the dispensing of hear-
23	ing aids, or any other purpose relating to hear-
24	ing health.

	(C) The policies of the Veterans Health
2	Administration regarding the referral of vet-
3	erans to non-Department hearing aid specialists
1	and a description of the manner in which such
5	policies will be applied under the Patient-Cen-
6	tered Community Care program of the Depart-
7	ment.

