

**2009 National Defense Authorization Act** [http://www.dod.mil/dodgc/olc/docs/2009NDAA\\_PL110-417.pdf](http://www.dod.mil/dodgc/olc/docs/2009NDAA_PL110-417.pdf)

**SEC. 731. REPORT ON PROVIDING THE EXTENDED CARE HEALTH OPTION PROGRAM TO DEPENDENTS OF MILITARY RETIREES.**

(a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report on including dependents of military retirees in the ECHO program for a limited transitional period following retirement.

(b) **CONTENTS OF REPORT.**—The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The most current data on the number of military retirees with dependents who are eligible to receive extended benefits under the ECHO program and an estimate of the number of future military retirees with dependents who are eligible to receive such benefits.

(2) The cost estimates of providing extended benefits under the ECHO program to dependents of all current and future military retirees.

(3) The feasibility of including dependents of military retirees in any ongoing demonstration or pilot programs within the ECHO program.

(4) The statutory and regulatory impediments to including dependents of military retirees in the ECHO program.

(c) **ECHO PROGRAM.**—In this section, the term “ECHO program” means the Extended Care Health Option program provided pursuant to subsections (d), (e), and (f) of section 1079 of title 10, United States Code.

**SEC. 732. INCREASE IN CAP ON EXTENDED BENEFITS UNDER EXTENDED HEALTH CARE OPTION (ECHO).**

Section 1079(f) of title 10, United States Code is amended— (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “month shall not exceed \$2,500,” and inserting “year shall not exceed \$36,000, prorated as determined by the Secretary of Defense,”; and in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “month” and inserting “year.”.