

TESTER'S VETERANS' BILLS *Signed into Law* x ----- IN 2021



Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize all Veterans and Every Spouse (SAVE LIVES) Act

This bipartisan law allows the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide COVID-19 vaccination services to all veterans, veteran spouses, caregivers, and the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) recipients at no cost to them.



Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act

This bipartisan law expands rural veterans' access to mental health care. It establishes three new Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement (RANGE) program centers to provide community-based care and services for rural veterans diagnosed with serious mental health issues, and supports additional research on rural veterans' mental health care needs and treatment options.



Fiscal Year 21 Major Medical Facility Authorization Act

This bipartisan law authorizes already funded major VA medical facility construction projects across the country for fiscal year 2021, including in California, Washington, New York, and Texas. It ensures the VA is on track to deliver key projects that'll create jobs and expand quality care to veterans nationwide.



Veterans' Disability Compensation Cost-of-Living (COLA) Adjustment Act

This bipartisan law increases the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans. It requires the federal government to provide disabled veterans with a COLA payable under title II of the Social Security Act, which sets the requirements for disability insurance benefits.



Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act

This bipartisan law reauthorizes authorities which, without extension, would have cut important veterans' benefits and services. These authorities expand access to mental health care by allowing eligible veterans to receive Beneficiary Travel pay reimbursement for transportation to and from their mental health care appointments at various sites, enhance veterans' access to dental care, and allow VA to continue accepting donated property.



Colonel John M. McHugh Tuition Fairness for Survivors Act

This bipartisan law expands in-state tuition eligibility for the families of veterans who die on active duty or from service-connected disabilities. It requires public colleges and universities that receive GI Bill benefits to provide in-state tuition rates for students using Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance—helping reduce the out-of-pocket education costs for surviving spouses and children.



Responsible Education Mitigating Options and Technical Assistance (REMOTE) Act

This bipartisan law ensures student veterans can access their full housing allowances while pursuing their education remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic.



VA Transparency & Trust Act

This bipartisan law requires VA to regularly report to Congress on its use of emergency COVID-19 relief funding—providing Committee leaders additional oversight over VA's spending.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA
JON TESTER