



COMMITTEE *on* VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Caring for Our Veterans Act

Streamlining and improving veterans' health care at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and in the community to ensure efficient, timely and quality care.

Establishes a Veterans Community Care Program

- The program will provide veterans with permanent, streamlined access to health care and services in their community.
- A veteran and their doctor will decide where that veteran will receive care, taking into consideration that veteran's health care needs and the availability and quality of both VA and community care.
- Keeps the cost of community care in line with the cost of VA health care to ensure a veteran does not pay more for outside care.
- Requires the VA to monitor the program and report to Congress on the care provided to veterans.
- Requires the secretary to develop an education program to inform veterans and VA providers about veterans' health care options.
- Establishes a program to provide continuing medical education credits for community care providers on treating veterans.
- Authorizes Veterans Care Agreements to remove bureaucratic red tape and allow the VA to enter into agreements with community health care and extended care providers that easily meet veterans' demands for care in the community.
- Creates standards for timely payment to community care providers.
- Provides \$4 billion for the Veterans Choice Fund.

Streamlines Community Care Programs

- Authorizes access to walk-in community clinics for enrolled veterans who have previously used VA health care services in the last two years.
- Improves accountability and transparency to taxpayers by requiring the secretary to report to Congress the VA's justification for any new funding requests and to provide a detailed plan on the use of the requested funding, including the amount of time it is expected to last.
- Requires the VA to establish and submit to Congress a strategy to ensure all VA and community care programs are operating efficiently and effectively based on a number of factors including veterans' satisfaction and access guidelines and quality standards, among others.
- Strengthens the safety and guidelines for VA and partnering health care providers who prescribe opioids to veterans.
- Ensures providers removed or suspended from VA practice do not treat veterans in the community.

Improves VA Healthcare Delivery

Increases the number of graduate medical education residency positions at the VA by up to 1,500 positions and incentivizes medical residents and established providers to work at rural, tribal and underserved VA facilities.

Provides \$1 billion to be used by the VA for educational assistance for providers, the increase of graduate medical education residency positions, and recruitment, relocation, and retention incentives.

Allows advanced practice registered nurses, physicians and dentists to continue their education while working at the VA.

Strengthens peer-to-peer support for veterans undergoing care for trauma or in rural areas.

Establishes mobile deployment teams for underserved and rural facilities to provide specialized and routine health care.

Streamlines the process to approve leases for new or enhanced-use outpatient clinics.

Expands eligibility for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to veterans of all generations and requires VA to implement an information technology system to better support, assess and monitor the caregiver program.

Allows VA to provide transplant procedures on a live donor.

This legislation is supported by:

The American Legion - Disabled American Veterans - IAVA - Military Officers Association of America
Paralyzed Veterans of America - The Wounded Warrior Project - Veterans of Foreign Wars