

# WHAT SENATOR JON TESTER'S VA MISSION ACT

WILL DO FOR MONTANA VETERANS, PROVIDERS, AND VA STAFF

IF YOU ARE A:	CURRENTLY DEALING WITH:	THE VA MISSION ACT WILL:	IN ORDER TO:
<b>VETERAN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bureaucratic red tape that makes it difficult to see your medical provider at the VA or in your community</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Empower you and your doctors to choose where to seek care.</li><li>• Create one set of rules and eligibility for you to access community care.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Make it easier to find out how, when and where to access community care.</li></ul>
<b>COMMUNITY PROVIDER</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Confusion over who to bill for veterans' care and are forced to wait weeks or months for payment for services.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Simplify the process for you to partner with the VA to serve veterans.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cut administrative burdens.</li><li>• Streamline business processes and transmission of patient records.</li><li>• Make claims reimbursement faster and easier.</li></ul>
<b>VA STAFF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Confusion over which community care program fits a veteran's needs and eligibility, especially with programs that utilize different funding streams.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consolidate existing community care programs into one system with one set of rules and eligibility.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce confusion among about when a veteran can use community care.</li><li>• Allow the VA to focus on providing top notch care and services to veterans.</li></ul>

If you are a **VETERAN**,  
the *VA MISSION Act* will:

- **Scrap the VA's seven community care programs** for a Veterans Community Care Program with one set of rules.
- **Keep the decision of where to seek medical care** between a veteran and their VA doctor.
- **Get rid of the one-size-fits-all community care system** and let veterans choose where to seek care based on factors like their health care needs, distance, geography, timeliness of available appointments, and quality of available VA and community care.
- **Remove barriers to access mental telehealth care** closer to home.
- **Create a new walk-in care benefit** to allow veterans to access care for non-emergency care without prior authorization at local clinics.
- **Require stronger accountability and transparency of government contractors** like Health Net that aid the VA in getting veterans access to community providers.
- **Better serve veterans who prefer to receive health care from the VA** by strengthening the VA's ability to recruit and retain a top-notch medical workforce.
- **Ensure a smooth transition to the Veterans Community Care Program** by requiring the VA to educate veterans on their new health care options.
- **Expand eligibility for VA caregiver support services** to veterans of all eras and modernize and strengthen support services.

If you are a **COMMUNITY PROVIDER**,  
the *VA MISSION Act* will:

- **Streamline the process to partner with the VA.**
- **Keep the responsibility** for scheduling community care appointments with the VA.
- **Establish a new prompt payment process** to pay or deny payment for services within 30 days of clean electronic claim or 45 calendar days of clean paper claim. In the case of denial, the VA will notify the provider for the reason for denial and any additional information needed to process the claim, if any. The VA will have 30 days to pay or deny the claim after this information is provided.
- **Streamline the sharing of medical records** between community providers and the VA to ensure a better continuity of care for veterans.
- **Streamline the process to approve leases** for new or enhanced-use outpatient clinics.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA

 **JON TESTER**

The new Veterans  
Community Care Program  
will be "live" in June 2019.

If you are a **VA NURSE,  
DOCTOR, OR MEDICAL STUDENT**,  
the *VA MISSION Act* will:

- **Provide scholarships for medical and dental students** who choose to work at the VA.
- **Increase the amount of loan assistance available** through the Education Debt Reduction Program from \$120,000 to \$200,000 over five years and \$24,000 to \$40,000 annually.
- **Establish a new loan repayment program** for medical students or residents with at least two years of training remaining. The loan repayment would be \$40,000 per year for a maximum of \$160,000 and the student would be required to serve at a VA facility for 12 months for every \$40,000 of loan repayment.
- **Establish a scholarship program** to put two veterans through four years of medical school. Recipients will be required to serve at a VA facility for four years after completing medical training.
- **Offer greater opportunity** for recruitment, retention, and relocation bonuses.
- **Allow clinical staff working at Vet Centers to access** the VA's Education Debt Reduction Program.
- **Deploy mobile teams of medical personnel to underserved medical facilities** and those that need extra short-term help.
- **Establish residency programs** at tribal medical facilities, Indian Health Service facilities, and VA and DoD medical facilities with a high shortage of medical providers.
- **Create a pilot program to increase the use of medical scribes** at VA facilities so doctors can focus on serving veterans and not filling out paperwork.