

U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

★★★ CHAIRMAN JERRY MORAN ★★★

Take Care of America's Veterans Act

The *Take Care of America's Veterans Act* is comprehensive legislation to meaningfully improve health care, benefits, and services for veterans, servicemembers, survivors, caregivers, military families, and VA staff, including long-standing priorities:

- *The Major Richard Star Act* would allow medically retired veterans with combat-related disabilities to receive their military retirement pay from DOD and disability compensation from VA;
- *The Veterans' ACCESS Act* would make it easier for veterans at-risk of suicide and overdose to get life-saving treatment and expand access to care in VA medical facilities and the community;
- *The Love Lives On Act* would end the remarriage penalty and allow surviving spouses of fallen servicemembers and veterans to remarry without losing the benefits they need to support their families;
- *The Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act* would increase compensation benefits for veterans with severe service-connected disabilities and for surviving spouses.

The *Take Care of America's Veterans Act* encompasses separate bills championed by Republican and Democrat lawmakers in the Senate and House of Representatives.

The *Take Care of America's Veterans Act* is **paid for** using elements of pending updates to the VA's Schedule of Rating Disabilities for future beneficiaries seeking service-connection for sleep apnea or tinnitus. These changes would align future ratings with current medical advances and best practices, were first proposed by the Biden administration in 2022, and are set to go into effect by October 1st. In total, these updates are expected to reduce future spending by \$38 billion over 10 years. By including them in this bill, Congress can redirect half of that future spending reduction back into benefits to better serve the brave men and women who served our country – and their families and survivors – while maintaining fiscal responsibility for American taxpayers.

The *Take Care of America's Veterans Act* delivers solutions for bipartisan priorities that veterans, servicemembers, survivors, and their families have been waiting on for far too long.