

**STATEMENT OF
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SERVICES
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BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE
ON
PROGRAMS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED VETERANS
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Chairman Moran, Ranking Member Blumenthal, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am honored to highlight the work the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is doing to support justice-involved Veterans as they navigate the legal system and reenter their communities.

VA's Veterans Justice Programs (VJP) ensures that justice-involved Veterans are identified early and connected to VA services that support accountability, rehabilitation and long-term stability. VJP specialists engage Veterans in courts, jails, prisons, or community settings to encourage responsible decision-making, facilitate behavioral health or other needed care, and support reintegration consistent with community safety.

In fiscal year 2025, VJP served more than 60,000 Veterans through more than 500 specialists nationwide. For many, meeting a VJP specialist can be a turning point that opens the door to recovery. Early engagement helps Veterans take responsibility for their actions while accessing treatment and support that promotes rehabilitation.

For non-violent offenders, Veterans Treatment Courts occupy a critical role in supporting justice-involved Veterans by offering a structured, treatment-focused alternative to incarceration. These courts pair judicial oversight with VA-supported

treatment and case management. VJP specialists work alongside court teams to ensure Veterans receive the health care, housing, and support needed to complete their programs successfully.

The Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV) program conducts outreach in Federal and state prisons or jails to support Veterans preparing for release. HCRV specialists assist with health care enrollment, identification documents, follow-up appointments, and reconnection to VA systems that may have lapsed during incarceration. This pre-release engagement is essential to ensuring successful community reintegration.

VA's Legal Services for Veterans program strengthens access to civil legal assistance helping Veterans address outstanding legal issues—such as housing disputes, benefits matters, or family law concerns—that may impede stability and successful reintegration. These services do not remove lawful accountability; rather, they assist Veterans to better understand their responsibilities under the law and navigate available resources so they can meet legal obligations, rebuild stability, and pursue self-sufficiency.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) complements VHA's clinical and reentry services by ensuring justice-involved Veterans receive information about VA benefits and how to apply. Through its Justice-Involved Veteran Coordinators and Homeless Veteran Outreach Coordinators, VBA tailors outreach to local needs, referring Veterans to Federal, state, and community organizations.

All VA regional offices conduct quarterly, in-person or virtual outreach to Veterans incarcerated at Federal, state, and local facilities. Benefit information, including benefit fact sheets and flyers and contact information for local VA facilities, are disseminated to incarcerated Veterans. Further, VBA outreach personnel provide information and training on VA benefits and services to community service providers and correctional officials. From October 1, 2025, through March 31, 2026, VBA conducted 425 justice-related outreach events, reaching more than 14,000 participants.

VBA outreach personnel also coordinate outreach efforts for Veterans at risk of homelessness who are being discharged or released from a facility after imprisonment. They work closely with VA medical center mental health staff, Vet Center staff, HCRV

staff, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing Program coordinators, and Veterans Justice Outreach staff, as necessary. VBA further assists these Veterans by coordinating with VHA to provide outreach to Veterans who are within 60 days of release to assist with establishing eligibility for VA benefits and services.

VA strongly supports the Department of Justice's National Center for Veterans Justice, which provides a national opportunity to standardize Veteran identification, strengthen data and research capacity, and improve coordination across the criminal justice system. VA's longstanding collaboration with courts, jails, and prisons form a strong foundation for expanded efforts. These collaborations demonstrate VA's commitment to the rule of law, safe communities, justice for victims, and the civic commitment that Veterans possess as a result of their service.

We appreciate the Committee's attention to these issues and look forward to continuing our work with Federal, state, and community organizations.

This concludes my testimony. I am pleased to answer any questions the Committee may have.