

THE PATH TO COMMUNITY CARE REFORM

A TIMELINE OF THE VA MISSION ACT

2014

APRIL: News breaks that veterans were placed on a secret wait list to get health care at the VA.

JUNE: Jon announces statewide veterans listening tour to gather feedback on how to address issues at the VA.

AUGUST: Congress overwhelmingly passes the *Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act*, which creates the Veterans Choice Program and bolsters the VA's ability to care for veterans.

2015

JANUARY: Jon becomes Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the VA and successfully fights against efforts to drastically underfund VA health care and instead strengthens the care that veterans receive at the VA.

2015-2017: Over the next three years, Jon introduces more than 10 bipartisan bills to tweak the Choice Program based on feedback from Montana veterans, including the first major Choice reform bill to streamline VA community care programs into one system and cut red tape for veterans.

2016

MARCH: Jon introduces his *Improving Veterans Access to Care in the Community Act*, landmark legislation to provide the VA with the flexibility it needs to improve care by streamlining and consolidating community care programs and eliminating the red tape that prevents veterans from accessing care through the Choice Program.

2017

JANUARY: Jon becomes Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

MARCH: After the VA reports the Choice Program is running out of money, Jon introduces the bipartisan *Veterans Choice Program Improvement Act* to make sure veterans' access to care isn't disrupted. Jon's bill also reduces out-of-pocket costs for veterans.

APRIL: President Trump signs Jon's *Veterans Choice Program Improvement Act* into law.

JULY: Jon introduces the bipartisan *VA Choice and Quality Employment Act* following another announcement that the Choice Program is running out of money. Jon's bill also incentivizes more doctors, nurses, and mental health professionals to work at the VA.

AUGUST: President Trump signs Jon's *VA Choice and Quality Employment Act* into law.

DECEMBER: Following months of negotiations, Jon and Chairman Johnny Isakson introduce the *Caring for Our Veterans Act*, which gets rid of the Choice Program, strengthens the VA's ability to care for veterans, and expands the VA Caregiver Support Program to veterans of all eras. It passes the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee 14-1.

2018

MARCH: 26 Veteran and Military Service Organizations endorse the *Caring for Our Veterans Act*.

MAY: Jon negotiates with Chairman Isakson and the House Veterans' Affairs Committee leadership to draft the *VA MISSION Act*, which includes his *Caring for Our Veterans Act*.

38 Veteran and Military Service Organizations and a bipartisan group of 7 former VA Secretaries endorse the *VA MISSION Act*.

The U.S. House of Representatives passes the *VA MISSION Act* 347-70.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA

JON TESTER