

What People Are Saying About Jon's

CARING FOR OUR VETERANS ACT

René Baldorf, VP of Government & Community Relations at WWP

"WWP is pleased to offer its support for the Caring for Our Veterans Act. We sincerely appreciate the spirit of bipartisanship and inclusiveness reflected in this bill and applaud your commitment to expanding options for care in the community and strengthening the resources available at the VA."

Paul Rieckhoff, Founder & CEO of IAVA

"I am pleased to offer our support for the bipartisan Caring for Our Veterans Act. We are pleased that the bill invests in upgrading VA's health care system and puts the veteran's needs first by empowering the VA to coordinate patient care wherever it can best be delivered. We greatly appreciate your Committee working with, and soliciting input from, leading VSOs to get us to this point."

John Rowan, President, CEO of VVA

"Vietnam Veterans of America stands behind The Caring for Our Veterans Act of 2017—a bill which will go a long way towards improving access and the quality care for our nation's veterans."

"Thank you for your strong leadership in introducing the Caring for Our Veterans Act. We recognize the enormous bipartisan effort put forth to craft such a significant piece of legislation. This will improve veterans' health care while also providing a solid plan for transforming the VA into a 21st Century health system."

- Dana Atkins, President and CEO of MOAA

"We are pleased to see the creation of a system of integrated networks with community providers so that VA may coordinate veterans care in the community when VA is unable or ill-fitted to provide such care. This will supplement, not supplant, VA's comprehensive system of care and provide appropriate resources to address the unique needs of veterans without causing a lapse in care."

- Carl Blake, Executive Director of PVA

"The legislation will begin to address the evolution of 21st-century medicine at the VA in a way that will allow the department to provide greater access and develop stronger relationship with non-VA providers, ultimately moving toward a more integrated system with the veteran at the core."

- Denise Rohan, Commander of the American Legion

"The VFW lauds Isakson and Tester for reaching a bipartisan and comprehensive compromise on the future of VA community care that will ensure veterans receive timely access to high quality, comprehensive and veteran-centric care. We look forward to working with the committee to ensure swift passage of this important bill."

- Bob Wallace, VFW Executive Director

"With the alarmingly high rate of veteran suicides, especially in rural states, NAMI applauds the bipartisan effort to provide veterans more care in the community led by Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Tester. Specifically, NAMI appreciates the provision to increase access for veterans to walk-in care through connecting VA's community care network and FQHCs. NAMI applauds Sen. Tester's provision specifically, to include Vet Center clinicians in VA's education debt reduction program — ensuring more mental health providers at VA in the most needed areas. NAMI also applauds Sen. Murray's advocacy to include the expansion of the family caregiver program at VA — ensuring all veteran caregivers caring for a veteran of any service era are able to qualify for this important program."

Emily Blair, National Alliance on Mental Illness



Garry Augustine, Executive Director of DAV:

"I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Caring for Our Veterans Act, which would strengthen and reform the VA health care system and create a new integrated VA community care program. The bill includes essential provisions to keep VA responsible for coordinating the care of enrolled veterans and provides new tools, authorities and resources so that veterans will have timely access to high-quality, comprehensive and veteran-focused care. The extension of VA's comprehensive caregiver benefits to earlier eras of veterans corrects a serious inequity by extending benefits to caregivers of veterans injured or made ill during or prior to the Vietnam War."

Neil Van Ess, National Commander of MOPH:

"I am pleased to offer our support for the Caring for Our Veterans Act, which would greatly improve veterans' access to the health care they have earned, both from community providers, and VA facilities. Your legislation would continue to improve quality and access at VA in a number of ways. These include granting new authorities to hire more doctors, improving telemedicine, and providing an additional \$1 billion to expand VA capacity. MOPH is particularly pleased that this bill would also finally expand full caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras."



26 veteran & military advocacy organizations:

"On behalf of the millions of veterans we represent, and all veterans who use the VA health care system, we write to urge you to take whatever actions are necessary to swiftly bring to the floor and pass the Caring for Our Veterans Act. This legislation would build on current community care programs by putting an end to arbitrary standards for when veterans may receive community care and by **consolidating the disparate community care programs into one program.** In doing so, this legislation would remove confusion over when and how veterans can access community care doctors, and ensure VA remains the coordinator of care for veterans regardless if care is delivered at VA medical facilities or through community care providers. Additionally, **this legislation includes important provisions to strengthen the VA health care system and expand its ability to provide direct care to our nation's veterans, while preserving VA foundational services not accommodated in the private sector.** Finally, we strongly support Title III of the legislation which would extend VA's comprehensive caregiver benefits to veterans of all eras. The legislation would **finally correct a serious inequity between veterans who served before September 11, 2001 and their post-9/11 comrades,** who believe the caregivers of pre-9/11 veterans must have access to comprehensive caregiver services that are fully funded and properly managed."

- Air Force Association
- Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA)
- Air Force Women Officers Association (AFWOA)
- The American Legion
- American Veterans (AMVETS)
- Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA)
- Association of Military Surgeons of the United States (AMSUS), the Society of Federal Health Professionals
- Chief Warrant Officers Association (CWOA)
- US Coast Guard
- Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
- Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
- Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV)
- Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)
- Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
- National Military Family Association
- Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
- Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)
- Service Women's Action Network
- The Military Chaplains Association of the USA
- The Retired Enlisted Association
- United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA)
- United States Coast Guard (USCG) Chief Petty Officers Association
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
- Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
- Wounded Warrior Project (WWP)