

The Honorable Julia Brownley
VA Conference Committee
Talking Points
468 words

Acting Chair: The gentlelady from California is recognized.

Julia Brownley: I thank the Chair for yielding.

As the proud Representative of Ventura County, home to Naval Base Ventura County, and the even prouder Representative of the 40,000 veterans who live in my district, I want to get this right, we must get this right, and I know my colleagues here today also want to get this right.

Problems at the VA are not new. They have spanned decades.

Congress has promised to take care of our veterans, the American people want us to take care of our veterans, and our veterans and their families have earned and deserve to be taken care of.

They have sacrificed for our country, and now our country must sacrifice for them.

We are here today at a pivotal moment for the VA and for our vets.

We can act decisively, and fix what must be fixed, or we can argue over pay-fors and privatization, and get nowhere.

As I sit here with my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, I know all of you care deeply about our veterans, and I

know that all of you truly want to fix the problems currently plaguing the VA.

I also know that what happened in Phoenix was intolerable, that the VA must undergo a complete cultural and systemic transformation, and that individuals at the VA should and must be held accountable for their actions.

But I also see this terrible tragedy as an opportunity to make real changes.

An opportunity we must seize.

An opportunity for this Congress to show the American people that it not only has the will, but the way forward, to making the VA better, to providing the resources

our veterans not only need, but have earned,

And to live up to our purpose--

Our purpose to serve our constituents, to serve our country, and to serve those who have served us.

Our veterans deserve no less.

The American people expect no less.

And we can do no less.

I look forward to working with all of you, in good faith, to put aside entrenched positions, ideology, and partisanship, so that we may find the courage to do whatever it takes, to seize this moment,

**this opportunity, this purpose, for which
we are all here**

**—and that is, to put it simply: to help our
veterans receive quality care in a timely
manner.**

It is not too much to ask.

I yield back the balance of my time.