



Gold Star Wives of America, Inc
200 N. Glebe Road, Suite 425
Arlington, VA 22203
703-351-6246

Testimony for the Record

Of

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.

Before the

**Senate Committees on
Veterans Affairs
Hearing**

June 3, 2015

Presented by

**Jamie Tomek
Chair, Government Relations Committee
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.**

“With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see right, let us strive to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who has borne the battle, his widow and his orphan.”

...President Abraham Lincoln, Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865

Not for publication
until released by
the Committees

Thank you for the opportunity to submit Testimony for the Record for the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on Wednesday, June 3, 2015.

Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. (GSW) was founded in 1945 and is a Congressionally Chartered Veterans Service Organization which serves the surviving spouses of military service members and veterans who died in service or died of a service connected cause.

HEY15526
Department of Veterans Affairs Purchased Health Care
Streamlining and Modernization Act

This bill would provide civilian medical care to veterans who cannot readily access VA medical care. This would substantially reduce the long wait for appointments at VA health care facilities.

GSW recommends passage of this initiative.

HEY15530
Veterans Health Act of 2015

This bill would provide adult immunizations against infectious diseases to veterans on the recommended adult schedule; expand chiropractic care and services to veterans; extend transportation to and from VA facilities for veterans; and provide a website to share VA research with the public.

GSW concurs with these objectives and requests that surviving spouses entitled to CHAMPVA be included in the immunization initiative either directly from VA immunization clinics and/or through CHAMPVA without co-pay. GSW also requests that surviving spouses entitled to CHAMPVA be included in the extended chiropractic care and services initiative.

HEY 15532
VA and DoD Drug Formularies
For Systemic Pain and Psychiatric Drugs

This bill would ensure that military personnel who are being successfully treated for pain and/or psychiatric conditions would be able to continue receiving the same pain and psychiatric medications when they transition from DoD medical care to VA medical care.

Care should be taken to ensure that patients entitled to or receiving both military medical care and VA medical care are not overmedicated, i.e., receiving medication from both the DoD medical facility and the VA medical facility.

GSW recommends passage of this initiative.

