UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

JOHNNY ISAKSON | CHAIRMAN

The *VA MISSION Act* of 2018

The *VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSON) Act*

Streamlines VA's Community Care Programs

- Consolidates seven VA community care programs into one streamlined program.
- Removes arbitrary 30-day/40-mile barriers to veterans' care in the community.
- Authorizes access to walk-in community clinics for enrolled veterans who have previously used VA healthcare services in the last two years.
- Authorizes local provider agreements to remove bureaucratic red tape and to meet veterans' needs for care in the community.
- Creates standards for timely payment to community care providers.
- Keeps the cost of community care in line with the cost of VA health care to ensure a veteran does not pay more for outside care.
- Requires the VA to monitor the program and report to Congress on the care provided to veterans.
- Requires the secretary to develop an education program to inform veterans and VA providers about veterans' health care options.
- Establishes a program to provide continuing medical education credits for community care providers on treating veterans.
- Requires the VA to establish and submit to Congress a strategy to ensure all VA and community care programs are operating efficiently and effectively based on a number of factors including veterans' satisfaction and access guidelines and quality standards, among others.
- Strengthens the process for VA and partnering health care providers who prescribe opioids to veterans.
- Ensures providers removed or suspended from VA practice do not treat veterans in the community.
- Provides $5.2 billion for the Veterans Choice Fund.

Improves VA Healthcare Delivery

- Removes barriers for VA healthcare professionals to practice telemedicine.
- Provides additional resources for hiring and retention of VA healthcare professionals.
- Strengthens peer-to-peer support for veterans undergoing care for trauma or in rural areas.
- Establishes mobile deployment teams for underserved and rural facilities to provide specialized and routine health care.
- Allows VA to provide transplant procedures on a live donor.
- Allows the VA to modernize assets and infrastructure.

Expands Caregivers

- Expands eligibility for VA's Caregiver Program to veterans of all generations.
- Requires VA to implement an information technology system to better support, assess and monitor the program.

Support for the VA MISSION Act

38 veteran and military advocacy organizations that represent millions of veterans in the United States wrote a letter to the House and Senate in support of the bill.