

Veterans' Affairs

Our veterans have made a great sacrifice in their service to our country. I believe they deserve the best healthcare and highest quality services that our VA can provide. I'm working hard in Congress to ensure that our veterans have the best healthcare they possibly can have. I'm doing what I can to hold the Veterans Administration accountable and ensure the VA is equipped to respond in an efficient and timely manner to the many needs of our veterans.

Action on Veterans' Affairs

Sponsorship:

- H.R. 5167, Justice for Victims of Torture and Terrorism
- H.R. 3381, Fair Pay for America's Troop Act
- H.R. 1541, the Coming Together for Guard and Reserve Families Act (this bill was co-introduced by Senator Harkin)

Original Co-sponsorship:

- H.R. 2417, Montgomery GI Bill Second Chance Act
- H.R. 2514, the Assured Funding for Veterans Healthcare Act
- H.R. 2219, the Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline Act
- H.R. 327, the Joshua Omgig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act
- H.R. 2943, the Benefit Rating Acceleration for Veteran Entitlements (BRAVE) Act
- H.R. 2303, the Perpetual Purple Heart Stamp Act
- H.R. 4231, Rural Veterans Health Care Access Act of 2007
- H.R. 4204, Veterans Suicide Study Act

Co-sponsorship:

- H.R. 579, the Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act
- H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act
- H.R. 1330, a bill to lengthen the amount of time that Guard or Reserve members can take advantage of the GI Bill after finishing military service to 10 years
- H.R. 1927, a bill to repeal the Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP) – Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset for surviving military spouse annuities, and to move the effective date of paid-up coverage under SBP from October 2008 to October 2007 (These are provisions supported by Military Officers Association of America)
- H.R. 690, a bill to reduce the minimum age for receipt of military pay for the Reserve Component from 60 to 55

- H.R. 2192, a bill to establish an Ombudsman within the Department of Veterans Affairs to act as a liaison for veterans and their family members with respect to the receipt of health care and benefits administered by the Department
- H.R. 2199, the Traumatic Brain Injury Health Enhancement and Long-Term Support Act of 2007
- H.R. 1470, the Chiropractic Care Available to All Veterans Act
- H.R. 1944, the Veterans Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act of 2007
- H. Con Res. 162, expresses the sense of Congress that Congress and the President should increase basic pay for members of the Armed Forces (by 3.5 percent, effective January 1, 2008)
- H.R. 513, the National Heroes Credit Protection Act
- H.R. 3051, the Heroes at Home Act
- H.R. 3298, the 21st Century Servicemembers Protection Act
- H.R. 3793, Veterans Guaranteed Bonus Act of 2007

Committee Hearings:

- May 24, 2007--"Mental Health Problems Confronting Soldiers Returning from Iraq, Afghanistan"
- April 17, 2007--"Is This Any Way to Treat Our Troops - Part II: Follow-up on Corrective Measures Taken at Walter Reed and Other Medical Facilities Caring for Wounded Soldiers"
- Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs: March 5, 2007--"Is this any way to treat our troops? The Care and Conditions of Wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed"