

Lobby Your Congressperson to Cosponsor House Resolution 1025 Supporting a Robust Veterans Health Administration

Endorsed by: AFGE, The American Legion, AMVETS, DAV

Dear Colleague,

We hope you will join us as cosponsors of our resolution supporting a robust Veterans Health Administration.

The VHA provides high-quality care to nine million American veterans who rely on VA health facilities to address their unique needs and health conditions, which are among the most complex in our health care system. We should be investing in these VA health facilities – not diverting funding away – so that more veterans can access high-quality care.

A recent RAND Corporation report found that the health care provided by the VA is actually equal to or better than its private sector counterparts. A recent VFW survey found that 92% of veterans believe working to fix the VA, rather than dismantling it, is the best way to improve the care provided to America's veterans.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration's push to dramatically increase the role of private care would diminish the quality of care for veterans, weaken the VHA, and significantly increase the cost of providing veterans the care they deserve.

Our resolution:

- Supports policies that provide necessary resources to serve veterans by maintaining a robust Veterans Health Administration;
- Opposes policies that would jeopardize care for veterans by moving essential resources away from the Veterans Health Administration and into the private sector; and
- Supports policies that would create integrated health care networks for veterans with the Veterans Health Administration, serving as the coordinator and primary provider of care, and selected high-quality community partners providing care when and where needed to ensure timely and convenient access for all enrolled veterans.

Join us in standing for quality care for our nation's veterans. For more information, or to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Amanda Eaton (Amanda.eaton@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Takano, Kelsey Mishkin (Kelsey.Mishkin@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Grijalva, or Leslie Zelenko (Leslie.Zelenko@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Pocan.

Sincerely,

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

TEXT OF RESOLUTION – HOUSE RESOLUTION 1025

Expressing support for policies that maintain a robust, fully-funded and staffed Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs and do not jeopardize care for veterans by moving essential resources to the private sector.

Whereas Congress has promoted policies to improve the health care capabilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs by providing significant increases in funds to hire staff, build more facilities, and improve training;

Whereas over 9,000,000 veterans are enrolled in and depend on the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs for all or part of their care;

Whereas the approximately 20,000,000 veterans of the United States are a diverse group of individuals including older veterans with diseases associated with aging and disabilities associated with past wars and younger veterans with complex conditions related to improved battlefield medical care, and as a group contain a higher percentage of seriously wounded individuals needing complex lifelong physical and mental health care, which differs greatly from the patient mix cared for by most community providers;

Whereas the RAND Corporation examined a decade of research and found that VA provided care is equal to or better quality than private sector care in all forty-seven quality-of-care measurements it conducted as part of an independent assessment comparing VA outpatient care with comparable civilian facilities;

Whereas, the RAND Corporation's Ready to Serve national study found that compared to community mental health providers, VA mental health providers were significantly more likely to deliver both culturally competent care, which is important for engaging veterans and increasing access to care, as well as evidenced-based care that yields clinically meaningful and significant improvement of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and major depression;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs is better equipped than most community providers to coordinate complex veteran care and provide continuity of resources for veterans;

Whereas employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs are dedicated public servants, one-third of whom are veterans themselves;

Whereas according to a bipartisan survey by Lake Research and Chesapeake Beach Consulting 80 percent of veterans polled oppose turning health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs into a system of private sector vouchers that may not adequately cover costs;

Whereas millions of dollars are being spent by organizations, which value dismantling the Department of Veterans Affairs and outsourcing veteran care over investing in the Department;

Whereas funding has increased significantly for Choice and Community Care programs that pay for the costs of providing veterans private health care at the same time that the Administration is requesting less funding for medical services at the Veterans Health Administration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports policies that provide necessary resources to serve veterans by maintaining a robust Veterans Health Administration;

(2) opposes policies that would jeopardize care for veterans by moving essential resources away from the Veterans Health Administration and into the private sector; and

(3) supports policies that would create integrated health care networks for veterans with the Veterans Health Administration, serving as the coordinator and primary provider of care, and selected high-quality community partners providing care when and where needed to ensure timely and convenient access for all enrolled veterans.