Take Care of America's Veterans Act (Chairman Bost)

Comprehensive legislation to mark America's 250th anniversary and keep our promise to America's veterans, their families, and their survivors

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN MIKE BOST

BACKGROUND: *The Take Care of America's Veterans Act* introduced by House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Mike Bost (R-Ill.) and Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) is a comprehensive veterans' package that includes more than 60 bipartisan bills to modernize, enhance, and reform the delivery of healthcare and benefits services at VA for the entire veteran community.

The Take Care of America's Veterans Act includes the following key priorities –

- **H.R. 740: The Veterans' ACCESS Act** – ensures veterans can access the healthcare they have earned, inside or outside VA and without wait times.
- **Major Richard Star Act** – ends the wounded veteran tax by permitting eligible combat-injured veterans to concurrently receive their full military retirement pay alongside their VA disability compensation benefits.
- **H.R. 6047: The Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act** – increases monthly VA benefits for severely disabled veterans and their families as well as veterans' survivors and Gold Star families.
- **H.R. 1004: Love Lives On Act** – allows surviving spouses of fallen servicemembers and veterans to retain the VA survivor benefits their spouse earned in service, even if they remarry.
- **S. 879: Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act** – would make several reforms to caregiver programs by extending medical coverage by 6 months to caregivers after the veteran passes away or otherwise is discharged from the caregiver program and expands access to economic opportunity support and employment programs for caregivers, including DOL Vets.
- **H.R. 6835: Veterans STAND Act** – would require VA to conduct preventative health evaluations to veterans with spinal cord injuries and assess them for eligibility for modern assistive mobility devices.
- **H.R. 9438, H.R. 2283, H.R. 6993**: **Fox Grant Reauthorization + Mental Health Access** – ensures veterans can continue to access the mental health care support services in the communities where they live nationwide by expanding grant eligibility.
- **H.R. 5702, H.R. 7103, H.R. 982, H.R. 1872: GI Bill Benefits Expansion** – increases the monthly housing allowance for student veterans going to school online or apprenticeships training, expands access to in-demand tech career opportunities, and reimburses servicemembers for paid-into GI Bill benefits.
- **H.R. 2137: VA Disability Benefits + Appeals Modernization** – implements needed reforms to ensure veterans have all the answers when it comes to their VA appeal for disability benefits, adds better tracking for claims filing, continues to study toxic exposure-related illnesses, and prohibits VA from denying claims solely because of a missed medical exam.
- **H.R. 3482, S. 607:** Significant investment in non-EHR IT at VA.
- **H.R. 1845, H.R. 3387: TAP Expansion and TAP Promotion Act** – expands access to TAP services for transitioning servicemembers across the ranks.
- Improved access to healthcare and research for veterans living with TBIs – **H.R. 8115 and H.R. 6444**
- **H.R. 217, H.R. 6599, H.R. 6833, H.R. 7683, H.R. 6549** – needed changes to VA contracting procurement, budget practices, new VA facility construction and leasing processes to reduce waste and fraud.

The Take Care of America's Veterans Act is fully offset by codifying a bipartisan change to VA's ratings schedule.

Courtesy of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Majority staff.

THE MESSAGE:

- As we head into our nation's 250th anniversary, *the Take Care of America's Veterans Act* upholds the promise we have made to get our nation's veterans the healthcare, disability benefits, and the services they are eligible for on time and without needless government bureaucracy.

- *The Take Care of America's Veterans Act* builds on the CHOICE Act and the MISSION Act to ensure that veterans can access the healthcare they are eligible for whether that is inside or outside VA.

- *The Take Care of America's Veterans Act* would end the Biden administration's government overreach that allowed bureaucrats – not doctors – to decide where and when thousands of veterans across the country could get the healthcare they are eligible for.

- *The Take Care of America's Veterans Act* would increase VA benefits for catastrophically disabled veterans and the families who care for them as well as the veteran survivor community for the first time in 20+ years.

- *The Take Care of America's Veterans Act* would end the wounded veteran tax and allow thousands of disabled veterans to receive the pension they are eligible for.

- *The Take Care of America's Veterans Act* would end the remarriage penalty that impacts veterans' survivors earned VA survivor benefits.

- *The Take Care of America's Veterans Act* would make necessary changes to modernize and improve the entire VA disability benefits compensation system.

- *The Take Care of America's Veterans Act* would ensure active-duty servicemembers have every resource at their disposal to find the path that works for them after they leave the military.

- *The Take Care of America's Veterans Act* supports the caregivers who care for our nation's veterans 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by ensuring they can access the support resources they need through VA.

- *The Take Care of America's Veterans Act* would reform VA's outdated construction and leasing processes that delay the opening of clinics and facilities across the country by cutting through red tape and fast tracking new, modern facilities in communities everywhere.

- *The Take Care of America's Veterans Act* would uphold the promise President Trump has made to place veterans – not big government – back and the center of VA's mission.

- *The Take Care of America's Veterans Act* would make VA work for veterans again by upholding the promise we have made to take care of our nation's heroes and their families.

Courtesy of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Majority staff.