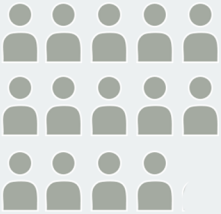
Office of the Majority Leader
& House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

VETERANS UPDATE

110
VA facilities maintained secret waitlists



Only **14**
VA employees proposed for discipline

including only **3** fired

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and its subcommittees held

45
hearings this Congress

PROBLEMS CONTINUE AT THE VA

Nothing less than fundamental reform is necessary to change the culture of corruption and mismanagement in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Even after Congress passed landmark reforms, the Administration has failed our veterans. The list of problems is still long:

- **Veterans are still waiting for care**, with a new report showing that more than 238,000 veterans died while waiting to be enrolled in the healthcare system. That's on top of the fact that there are now 50 percent more veterans on waitlists for a month or more than there were during the height of the scandal last year.
- **VA employees aren't being held accountable** for widespread mistreatment and misconduct. In fact, only three employees have been successfully fired for wait time manipulation. Two other employees at the center of the scandal have been put on paid leave for over a year as their cases have been under investigation.
- **The VA can't get a handle on its budget,** and told Congress nine months into their budget year that it needed another $2.5 billion. Meanwhile, the VA consistently runs over budget, including the budget for a still-unfinished hospital in Colorado that has ballooned to upwards of $1 billion more than the initially proposed price.
- **The VA improperly spends billions of dollars annually,** according to the agency's deputy assistant secretary for acquisitions and logistics. The official said the VA has a culture of "lawlessness and chaos" that has resulted in between $6 to $10 billion being spent improperly each year.
- **The VA consistently fails in IT security**, making it a prime target for hackers. Though VA computers contain data on around 20 million veterans, their system is unencrypted, and nations like China and perhaps Russia have repeatedly breached the system since 2010.

The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs has conducted vigorous oversight, uncovering wrongdoing at the VA and offering solutions. This year alone, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and its subcommittees have conducted **45 hearings.**

For example, since 2010 the committee has held **eight hearings on construction failures** and ordered a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report disclosing the waste and delays. **The committee also uncovered the VA's improper spending and discovered the agency's massive budget shortfall this year.**

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In **7** months,
the House has:

introduced **19** bills
to help our veterans.

4 of these
passed the Senate.

3 of those
have been
signed into law.

We're fighting to create
a 21st century VA

for those who
fought for us.

CONGRESS CONTINUES TO HELP VETERANS

The past seven months, the House has passed bills to improve **veterans' health, hold the VA accountable,** and **increase veteran employment and housing.** We have passed 19 bills focused on helping our veterans. Four of these bills have passed the Senate, and three have been signed into law.

Veterans' Health remains a primary focus of all House veteran legislation. We passed bills to decrease veteran suicides and increase choice in health care so that our veterans have access to the care they need.

Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention (H.R. 203)
Long-Term Care Veteran Choice (H.R. 294)
Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Planning (H.R. 216)
Construction Authorization and Choice Improvement (H.R. 2496)

VA Accountability and Reform is necessary to truly care for our veterans. A 21st century VA must give veterans access to private care, streamline its systems, and hold employees accountable.

To recoup bonuses and awards paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs (H.R. 280)
Ensuring VA Employee Accountability (H.R. 1038)
Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations (H.R. 2029)
Veterans Information Modernization (H.R. 2256)
Veterans ID Card (H.R. 91)
VA Accountability (H.R. 1994)
Ruth Moore (H.R. 1607)

Veterans Employment and Housing ensures our veterans are fully integrated in society and have every opportunity for self-sufficiency after suffering the physical and mental wounds of war. We passed legislation to increase veteran employment and decrease veteran homelessness.

Hire More Heroes (H.R. 22)
Homes for Heroes (H.R. 251)
Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization (H.R. 474)
Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform (H.R. 1816)
Boosting Rates of American Veteran Employment (H.R. 1382)
Veteran Entrepreneurship (H.R. 2499)
Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business Relief (H.R. 1313)
Veterans Compensation and Cost-of-Living Adjustment (H.R. 675)