



UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE ON **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

JOHNNY ISAKSON | CHAIRMAN

The *VA MISSION Act* of 2018

**S.2372, The VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks
(MISSION) Act**

Short Bill Summary:

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.
- Removes bureaucratic red tape by authorizing local provider agreements to meet veterans' needs for care in the community.
- Strengthens opioid prescription guidelines for non-VA providers.

Improves VA Healthcare Delivery

- Removes barriers for VA healthcare professionals to practice telemedicine.
- Provides additional resources for hiring and retention of VA healthcare professionals.
- Includes funding for the Choice Program that is expected to last until the new program authorized under the bill is implemented.
- Allows the VA to modernize assets and infrastructure.

Expands Caregivers Program

- 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. It is also supported by President Donald Trump and Acting Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie.