



Congresswoman Jenniffer González Colón

Puerto Rico At-Large

Extended Remarks

H.R. 1005

I make these remarks in support for H.R. 1005, which will improve the healthcare services received by Puerto Rico's veterans. H.R. 1005 will provide payment for services for medical, nursing, and personal care for veterans that are eligible for, but do not receive, nursing home care.

Current law disadvantages Puerto Rico's citizens, most notably Puerto Rico's veterans. There are approximately ninety-three thousand Puerto Rican veterans. During their active service these Puerto Rican veterans are treated the same in many regards as veterans from the fifty states. However, the medical treatment and health care services they receive once they have returned to the island is different. H.R.1005 will serve as a tool to improve the care and medical attention our heroes deserve.

Puerto Rico currently has just one state veteran home, "*La Casa del Veterano*", located in the municipality of Juana Díaz. Currently, La Casa del Veterano is the home of 140 residents, 129 of these residents are veterans. Unfortunately, this leaves a

great number of Puerto Rico's veteran population without the valuable care offered by La Casa del Veterano. H.R. 1005's medical model for adult day health care services will support several regions of Puerto Rico, making it possible for veterans to attend a program that will enhance the quality of lives and the support the families and friends who currently provide much of the veteran care.

H.R. 1005's medical model for adult day health care will provide comprehensive medical, nursing, and personal services. It combines these services with a variety of therapies and engaging social activities that are essential for the treatment of Puerto Rico's veterans, while also providing professional health and hygiene care in support of spouses and family members.

H.R. 1005 will bring support and relief to the family and friends filling a critical gap - the care needed for daily living activities like bathing, dressing, and feeding - by providing a healthcare professionals and individualized healthcare plans designed by a multidisciplinary healthcare team. It will allow caregivers to continue their professional careers without damaging the wellbeing of their families.

H.R. 1005 is supported by the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America, Air Force Association, the National Association of State Directors and Puerto Rico's sole Veterans State home, "La Casa del Veterano".

I support this bill because of the help it will provide to Puerto Rico's veterans and the support it will provide to Puerto Rico's La Casa del Veterano. I urge my colleagues to support H.R.1005.