

House Veterans' Affairs Committee Member Day Statement

H.R. 1944 – VA Medical Center Facility Transparency Act

Congresswoman Debbie Lesko

September 10, 2019

1. Chairman Takano (D-CA) and Ranking Member Roe (R-TN), thank you for your leadership of this Committee to advance policies to help our veterans' community.
2. I am eternally grateful to the brave men and women who have and continue to fight to protect our nation and freedoms. Our veterans have served their country with honor, and I believe it is our duty as their Representatives to ensure they are cared for when they return home.
3. As the Member of Congress representing Luke Air Force Base, I am especially committed to the well-being of our military veterans, and I look forward to working with this Committee to ensure they are well taken care of.
4. It's my honor to be here today to advocate for my bipartisan bill, H.R. 1944, the VA Medical Center Transparency Act, which I introduced with my colleague, Congresswoman Susie Lee of Nevada.
5. The purpose of my bill is to help veterans by increasing transparency of VA medical facilities, so that Members of Congress can better and more easily understand the strengths of VA medical facilities and help them to elevate the care our veterans receive.
6. The bill would require every Director of a VA Medical Facility to write a factsheet annually that would include:
 - a. (1) Statistics regarding patient volume, the most common health conditions treated, the average wait time, and other matters the Director deems appropriate;

- b. (2) A description of the successes or achievements of the facility, including actions taken to improve the facility and the care provided; and
 - c. (3) A brief plan to improve the facility
- 7. The fact sheet would be made publicly available online and in the relevant medical facility, and copies would be sent to the Secretary of the VA, both Veterans Affairs Committees, and to each Representative and Senator that represents the district or state in which the facility is located.
- 8. This factsheet will not replace any report nor take resources away from the VA.
- 9. Rather, this simple factsheet will allow our facilities to easily highlight their achievements and communicate their plans to elevate quality, and allow us as Members of Congress to better respond to their needs so that they can provide the optimal care for those who have served our country.
- 10. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today, and I ask that the Committee move this bipartisan bill.