



**Statement for the Record from Brandon Carter, President,
USAA Life Insurance Company
To the U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Hearing entitled "Veteran Suicide Prevention: Capitalizing on What Works and Increasing
Innovative Approaches"
September 29, 2022**

On behalf of the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) and our more than 13 million members of the U.S. military, veterans who have honorably served, and their families, thank you for convening this important hearing to strengthen approaches to military and veteran suicide prevention.

USAA is a membership association that serves members of the military community, including active duty, guard, reserve, retired and honorably separated and their families. Since our founding in 1922 by 25 U.S. Army officers, USAA has pursued a mission of facilitating the financial security of our members, associates and their families through the provision of a full range of highly competitive financial products and services. We seek to be the provider of choice for the military community. Our core values of service, honesty, loyalty and integrity have enabled us to perform consistently and be a source of stability for our members.

Financial security is a key pillar of military and veteran suicide prevention, as reflected in the Centers for Disease Control's seven suicide prevention strategies; the Department of Veterans Affairs' work with veterans experiencing financial insecurity; the Department of Defense's emphasis on strengthening economic supports and the Administration's National Strategy for Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide, which identifies financial security and literacy as a protective factor that can reduce suicide risk.

We are encouraged by bipartisan legislative efforts to turn the tide on military and veteran suicide, including through the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. We also appreciate the Committee's work to advance standalone legislation on this topic, including H.R. 6273, the VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Project Act of 2021. This bipartisan bill is an important step toward improving mental health, safety and suicide care for veterans, beginning with implementation of a pilot program at five VA medical centers. We are pleased to have voiced our support for this bill by submitting a Statement for the Record for the Subcommittee on Health's June 22, 2022 hearing to examine this legislation.

In addition to our own organizational focus on financial security, USAA is proud to partner with groups working to prevent military and veteran suicide, support impacted families and strengthen military family resiliency – groups like Stop Soldier Suicide, PsychArmor, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) and many of our trusted Veterans Service Organization (VSO) partners, some of whom have also submitted statements in advance of today's hearing. We thank them and applaud their tireless work to support our nation's heroes before, through and after their darkest hours.

As we enter our second century, USAA is committed to doing our part in the nationwide effort to address military and veteran suicide. We look forward to working with the Committee to explore

legislative and regulatory solutions to this crisis and discuss how the private sector can do its part.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Carter', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Brandon Carter
President, USAA Life Insurance Company