

H.R. 3767 - HPSP IMPROVEMENT ACT (HAMADEH BILL)

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm proud to offer the HPSP Improvement Act with my friend and colleague, Representative Budzinski. This bipartisan bill addresses a critical gap in VA healthcare delivery.

The Inspector General's reports are clear: staffing shortages are compromising veteran care. Wait times for urgent and emergency care continue to climb while qualified healthcare professionals sit idle, waiting months for the VA bureaucracy to process their employment contracts.

Our bill cuts through the red tape. HPSP scholarship recipients will receive employment contracts within 90 days of completing their training - period.

No more six-month delays. No more bureaucratic excuses. And facilities with the highest staffing needs get priority placement.

I want to thank the Committee for adding Representative Dunn's H.R. 3855, the smoking ban provision, to our bill. Secretary Collins and his team asked for this tool to push back against union lawsuits that threaten smoke-free VA campuses. When union bosses try to force the VA to allow smoking around our veterans seeking healthcare, that's unacceptable. I fully support Representative Dunn's commonsense addition - our veterans deserve clean, healthy environments when they come to the VA for care.

Now, returning to the core mission of the HPSP Improvement Act: This is about getting doctors and nurses into VA facilities where veterans need them most.

My fellow veterans in Arizona's 8th District deserve better than the status quo.

When I served as an Army intelligence officer, we lived by a simple principle: mission first, people always. This bill embodies that commitment.

I urge my colleagues to support the HPSP Improvement Act. Our veterans have waited long enough.

I yield back.