

# AVALON

## ACTION ALLIANCE

### Statement for the Record

#### Joe Brennan

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Before the House Veterans Affairs Committee

March 18, 2026

Chair Bost, Ranking Member Takano, and Members of the Committee,

Avalon Action Alliance appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement for the record regarding legislation under consideration by the Committee.

Avalon Action Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to helping veterans and first responders heal from the invisible wounds of service, including traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress, and substance abuse. We serve as a single point of contact connecting warriors to specialized care through a national network of trusted providers. Through this coordinated approach, Avalon Action Alliance-supported partners have served more than 1,400 warriors through intensive outpatient traumatic brain injury programs, more than 5,500 participants through posttraumatic growth training, and more than 275 warriors through substance abuse treatment support.

In his statement before the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health on March 5, 2026, Dr. Russell Gore, Chief Medical Officer of Avalon Action Alliance, explained that many veterans with traumatic brain injury and related conditions face overlapping neurologic, sleep, pain, and mental health challenges that require coordinated, interdisciplinary care and stronger continuity of support.

For these reasons, Avalon Action Alliance supports legislation that improves access to care, strengthens the translation of research into practice, and addresses veteran populations whose needs are too often overlooked.

### VA Research Reform Act of 2025

Avalon Action Alliance supports the VA Research Reform Act of 2025.

The bill would establish a centralized Department of Veterans Affairs research data system to track research activities across the Department and would create stronger standards for major research

projects. It would also create regional research hubs to support multi-site studies, improve coordination, assist with recruitment, and strengthen collaboration across Department of Veterans Affairs facilities and research partners.

Avalon Action Alliance supports this approach because veterans with traumatic brain injury and related conditions need more than promising research alone. They need research that is organized, measurable, and translated into real improvements in care. Gaps remain in access and continuity for veterans with complex traumatic brain injury, and innovative models must be evaluated and scaled in ways that complement the Department of Veterans Affairs mission. This bill would help move research findings into practice more effectively.

### **Get Justice-Involved Veterans BACK HOME Act**

Avalon Action Alliance supports the Get Justice-Involved Veterans Behavioral Assistance and Care for Key Health Outcomes to Maintain Empowerment Act, or the Get Justice-Involved Veterans BACK HOME Act.

The bill would create a pilot program to provide mental health care to incarcerated veterans, with priority for veterans with service-connected disabilities related to post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or military sexual trauma. It would also use telemental health where possible, create a dedicated provider hub for incarcerated veterans, encourage veteran-specific housing units in federal facilities, and improve coordination and data collection.

Avalon Action Alliance strongly supports this bill because justice-involved veterans are an underserved population with significant mental health and brain health needs. Many carry service-connected conditions that remain clinically important during incarceration and especially during reentry. Expanding access to care, improving coordination, and establishing a more structured path to treatment and reintegration align directly with Avalon Action Alliance's mission to ensure that veterans with complex needs are not left behind.

### **Conclusion**

Avalon Action Alliance supports policies that improve access to specialized care, strengthen evidence-based treatment, and ensure that vulnerable veteran populations are not overlooked. The VA Research Reform Act of 2025 would help the Department of Veterans Affairs better organize and translate research into practice. The Get Justice-Involved Veterans BACK HOME Act would extend needed mental health support and continuity of care to a population whose needs are too often neglected.

Avalon Action Alliance therefore urges the Committee to advance both bills.