

Statement for the Record

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Before the House Veterans Affairs Committee

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

Boulder Crest Foundation appreciates the opportunity to provide this Statement for the Record regarding several pieces of legislation under consideration to improve mental health care, access, and outcomes for our nation's veterans.

Boulder Crest is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that members of the military, veteran, and first responder can live the great lives they deserve. Through our Posttraumatic Growth-based programs, we work closely with veterans navigating trauma, transition, and recovery, insights that inform our views on the legislation before the Committee.

H.R.5203. To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update directives of the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the management of acute sexual assault, and for other purposes.

Boulder Crest Foundation recognizes the importance of ensuring that veterans who experience acute sexual assault receive timely, coordinated, and trauma-informed care. Standardizing Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) policies related to forensic examinations, access to trained providers, mental health referrals, and coordination with law enforcement represents an important step toward improving consistency and quality of care across the system.

We are particularly encouraged by provisions requiring access to Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (SAFE/SANE), availability of forensic evidence collection, and recurring trauma-informed training for VA personnel. These measures align with best practices and reflect the need for sensitive, veteran-centered responses in moments of acute crisis.

At the same time, Boulder Crest acknowledges that aspects of the bill raise complex and sensitive considerations. Given the importance of maintaining broad consensus around improving care for survivors, we encourage continued dialogue to ensure that implementation remains focused on delivering timely, high-quality, trauma-informed services to veterans in need.

Accordingly, Boulder Crest Foundation takes a neutral position on H.R. 5203 while supporting its core objective of improving care for veterans who have experienced sexual assault.

Discussion Draft: Get Justice-Involved Veterans BACK HOME Act

Boulder Crest Foundation strongly supports the Get Justice-Involved Veterans BACK HOME Act, which takes meaningful steps to address the unique needs of justice-involved veterans.

Far too many veterans in the criminal justice system struggle with untreated or undertreated mental health conditions, including post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and military sexual trauma. This legislation's pilot program to provide VA-led mental health care to incarcerated veterans—through telehealth, mobile units, or other means—represents a pragmatic and necessary approach to closing this gap in care.

We are also encouraged by provisions supporting veteran-specific housing units within correctional facilities, which can foster structure, peer support, and more effective rehabilitation. Additionally, the automatic resumption of VA benefits upon release removes unnecessary administrative barriers that can impede successful reintegration.

Together, these provisions reflect a comprehensive approach to supporting veterans both during incarceration and as they transition back into their communities. Boulder Crest believes this legislation aligns closely with the goal of reducing recidivism and promoting long-term recovery and reintegration.

H.R.6583, The Research Reform Act of 2025

Boulder Crest Foundation supports the VA Research Reform Act of 2025 and its efforts to modernize how the VA conducts, tracks, and implements research.

Veterans benefit most when research is not only conducted but also effectively translated into practice. The establishment of a centralized data system, regional research hubs, and clearer performance metrics can help ensure that outcome-driven innovations are more rapidly and consistently integrated into care delivery.

For organizations like Boulder Crest, which focus on advancing non-clinical and growth-based approaches to healing, improved research coordination and implementation pathways are especially important. Strengthening the connection between research findings and real-world application will ultimately lead to better outcomes for veterans and their families.

Conclusion

Boulder Crest Foundation appreciates the Committee's leadership in advancing policies that improve mental health care, access, and outcomes for veterans across a range of needs.

We stand ready to work with Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and our partners in the veteran service organization community to ensure that these efforts translate into meaningful, measurable improvements in the lives of those who have served.

Respectfully submitted,
Boulder Crest Foundation