

Whole Veteran Testimony:

- Madam Chairwoman, I know you and everyone in this room shares my deep concern regarding the high rate of veteran suicide across the country.
- It is essential that we make all necessary tools available to veterans as they face their individual mental health challenges.
- Instead of concentrating on an isolated condition, Whole Health programs and treatments focus on the whole veteran.
- Physical, emotional, and mental health are all interconnected, and the VA has the important responsibility of supporting veterans in achieving their highest overall well-being.
- VA's Whole Health Program is integral to VA's suicide prevention efforts, yet these services are not available at every facility leaving many veterans wanting.
- The Whole Veteran Act requires the VA to provide Congress with information regarding the accessibility and availability of components of Whole Health programs.

- By identifying the current gaps in availability, the VA can take the adequate steps to improve the mental health and well-being of all our veterans no matter where they live.
- Thank you and I yield back.