

October 13, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Brownley, Ranking Member Bergman and Members of the Subcommittee,

Our military veterans dedicated their lives to protecting our country, and they deserve first-rate resources. That's why it's so important to connect our military veterans to the support networks they need. Peer specialists not only serve as valuable emotional support for veterans, but research has shown that they also have a measurable positive impact on the physical and mental health of veterans.

The Veteran Peer Specialist Act is long overdue, and our nation's heroes deserve it. This pilot program will expand the breadth of peer support specialists into rural and underserved locations – like many communities in the district I represent, the Big First District of Kansas.

It is an honor to lead this legislation alongside U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Roy Blunt (R-MO), and U.S. Representatives Scott Peters (D-CA) and Colin Allred (D-TX) in a bipartisan, bicameral effort. As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I will continue to advocate for the highest quality of care for our nation's heroes, and I look forward to its swift passage in committee and both chambers.

Sincerely,

Tracey Mann
Member of Congress