

WWII BILL REMARKS

Today I want to highlight an issue that, regardless of the amount of lip service folks in Washington give it, is still impacting far too many families. That's health care for our veterans.

Right now, despite their heroic service to our nation, more than 1 in 4 veterans of the Second World War aren't using the health care benefits they've earned. That means more than a quarter of the men and women who defeated fascism and kept our nation free aren't receiving the medical services, the in-home care, the nursing home care, and the hospital care our nation promised them when they put on the uniform.

And we know exactly why this is happening – means testing restrictions are excluding these veterans from getting services at the VA. So, I'm here today with as simple a fix as there is.

I'm proposing the WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Eligibility Act. The whole bill is less than one page. It says that every World War II veteran, no matter who they are or where they're from is eligible for full health care benefits from the VA by exempting them from the means test. With the passage of this bill, any WWII veteran who was not previously enrolled in VA healthcare would have access to this expanded automatic eligibility. We did exactly this for the veterans of the First World War, and it's time we do it for the Greatest Generation too.

Today, I'm asking that we stop tripping over red tape and needless rules and started delivering health care for the World War II veterans we're lucky enough to call our parents, our neighbors, and our friends. We can never repay the men and women who kept us free all those years ago, but we can provide them the health care they deserve as they live out their golden years surrounded by their kids, their grandkids, and their great grandkids.

Thank you. I look forward to working with my colleague, Rep. Vela, and Republicans and Democrats alike to get this bill signed into law so every World War II veteran can age with dignity and respect.