

Testimony of Congressman Mark Alford (R-MO-04)
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Subcommittee on Health
H.R. 1774 – The VA Emergency Transportation Act
June 21, 2023

Chairwoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks and Ranking Member Julia Brownley, thank you for the opportunity to submit a statement as the Subcommittee considers H.R. 1774, the VA Emergency Transportation Act.

H.R. 1774 replaces the term “emergency treatment” with “emergency services” and defines “emergency services” to include both emergency treatment and transportation. If enacted, this bill would cover emergency transportation to a non-Veterans' Affairs (VA) facility for treatment.

Under current law, the VA only covers emergency transportation within the VA network. While veterans can always file a claim with the VA for reimbursement, there is no guarantee their costs for emergency transportation outside the VA network will be covered.

What is a veteran to do if they experience an emergency and require emergency transportation outside of the VA network? This is not a concern men and women who selflessly gave everything to serve this country should have to deal with.

Missouri's Fourth Congressional District is proudly home to two prestigious military installations, Whiteman Air Force Base and Fort Leonard Wood. These bases generate a significant military population to our district, including a substantial number of veterans. Our veterans made the decision to put their life on the line to defend our country and it is our duty to support their health and prosperity in civilian life.

Once again, I would like to thank the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health, Chairwoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks, and Ranking Member Julia Brownley for this opportunity. I appreciate the committee holding this important hearing and hope this bill passes with overwhelming support.