

# National Association for Behavioral Healthcare

Access. Care. Recovery.



## NABH Statement for the Record House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health Hearing Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024: 2:30 p.m. ET

The National Association for Behavioral Healthcare (NABH) is proud to represent behavioral healthcare providers dedicated to treating our nation's veterans.

We share our members' growing concern that Veterans Affairs (VA) gatekeepers have presented barriers to veterans receiving the appropriate level of behavioral healthcare services within the amount of time the *Mission Act of 2018* promises them.

As we understand, veterans who need residential treatment services have faced wait times for services that far exceed the 28-day limit for specialty care, making them eligible to seek community care services. Even then, however, veterans face wait times for behavioral healthcare services that average about two weeks, according to the [Government Accountability Office](#).

America's veterans did not wait to serve our country. We should not make them wait for the behavioral healthcare services they need.

NABH applauds House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Mike Bost for prioritizing treatment and recovery services for our nation's veterans. Now we urge Congress to pass the *Complete the Mission Act of 2024* to help ensure veterans have access to the right behavioral healthcare, in the right place, at the right time.

Shawn Coughlin  
NABH President and CEO