



Statement for the Record

of

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on

H.R. 3643, the VA Data Transparency and Trust Act

before the

Subcommittee on Health, House Veterans Affairs Committee

June 12, 2025





Thank you to Chairwoman Miller-Meeke, Ranking Member Brownley, and Members of the Subcommittee for the opportunity to submit this statement on behalf of Concerned Veterans for America (CVA). CVA is a grassroots network of thousands of veterans and military families dedicated to a freer and more secure America where every person is empowered to live their American dream. Our organization elevates veterans' unique perspectives in order to deliver people-empowering policy solutions, rooted in liberty-based principles, to the issues Americans face.

CVA is submitting this statement for the record in support of a common-sense piece of legislation being discussed before the committee today, **H.R. 3643, the VA Data Transparency and Trust Act**.

CVA's History in Veterans' Health Care Reform

Concerned Veterans for America has a thirteen-year track record as a leading advocacy organization for empowering veterans to seek the care that best meets their needs. CVA helped elevate the voices of VA whistleblowers who revealed that veterans had died while waiting for care on secret wait lists during the Phoenix VA scandal of 2014. In the aftermath of Phoenix, CVA also supported early reform efforts like the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, which created the first options for veterans to seek care outside the VA. CVA also helped secure passage of the 2017 VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act to change the personnel incentives that created the Phoenix scandal to begin with.

These early efforts culminated in the VA MISSION Act of 2018, which CVA helped shape and support in Congress. The legislation, which passed with overwhelming bipartisan support, incorporated many of the recommendations of CVA's 2015 Fixing Veterans' Health Care Task Force—namely by creating the Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP).¹ By consolidating existing choice programs into an easier-to-use VCCP and simplifying access standards, the MISSION Act has been a game-changer for millions of veterans' ability to access timely and quality care.

During the Biden Administration, CVA fought for additional congressional oversight as the Department of Veterans Affairs prioritized its bureaucratic interests over the well-being of the veterans it exists to serve. Veterans have suffered because the VA has not properly followed the requirements of the MISSION Act, particularly when it comes to ensuring veterans have access to community care when eligible. Fortunately, the 119th Congress has an opportunity to recommit to empowering veterans by putting them back at the center of their care.

VA data transparency for both Veterans Health Administration (VHA), along with similar measures for the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is a prerequisite to resolving the issues outlined above. Regular reporting on both VHA and VBA operations will give Congress and the public the tools it needs to exercise oversight and identify what does and does not work in current VA policies.

¹ "Fixing Veterans Health Care: A Bipartisan Policy Task Force," Concerned Veterans for America, 2015. <https://cv4a.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Fixing-Veterans-Healthcare.pdf>





H.R. 3643, the VA Data Transparency and Trust Act

The VA Data Transparency and Trust Act, introduced by Rep. John McGuire and co-sponsored by Chairman Mike Bost, would institute common-sense new reporting requirements for the VHA and VBA to aid oversight and improve operations. For years, CVA has called for much of the data specified in this bill to be tracked and reported for public review.

The bill would require an annual VHA report to Congress on the furnishing of medical care, including hospital and nursing home services, collecting basic information on major chronic conditions, veteran demographic information, and service-connected disability priority group status. The VHA would also report on enrollment, health insurance status, patient visit types and frequency, and length by category, as well as associated cost data. The reports would also include satisfaction survey data about treatment at the VHA and at community care providers. CVA has long called for the House Veterans Affairs Committee to require this data to be public

This information is valuable on several fronts. Average per-patient cost data has been historically dependent on the level of detail the VA provides in its annual budget requests, which can vary year-by-year and complicate Congress and the public's ability to compare VHA cost data to alternative public and community providers in a rigorous, disaggregated format. Additionally, VHA and community care satisfaction surveys are a valuable source of insight, but one which the VA stopped providing in its FY 2025 budget submission.

The bill would also require reporting on the age, annual maintenance costs, and annual visitors to different VHA facilities,² When necessary, Congress should be considering VA construction or consolidation on this kind of data-driven basis

The legislation would create similar reporting requirements for the VBA as well, ensuring Congress is aware of the number of veterans receiving benefits by age, income, length and type of military service, disability priority group level, and other demographic data. The current disability benefits system was put in place in the 1940s, and as Congress considers whether changes are warranted in light of medical advances and new rehabilitation treatment options, data on the number of beneficiaries and their benefits status changes over time between 1997 and 2024 would be an invaluable aid for future commissions assessing how to make the system both more responsive and effective in improving veterans' health outcomes.

Conclusion

Concerned Veterans for America urges Members of the Subcommittee on Health to **support H.R. 3643, the VA Data Transparency and Trust Act**, to promote good governance and help the VA better accomplish its mission. The VA is requesting a \$441 billion budget in FY 2026.³ The agency's solemn obligation to care for "him who shall have borne the battle" can only be

² "VA Recommendations to the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission," Department of Veterans Affairs, March 2022. <https://www.va.gov/AIRCOMMISSIONREPORT/docs/VA-Report-to-AIR-Commission-Volume-I.pdf>

³ U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs FY 2026 Budget Submission, May 2026. <https://department.va.gov/administrations-and-offices/management/budget/>





fulfilled when Congress and the public have access to key data on the degree to which the VA is succeeding.

Sincerely,

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Executive Director

Concerned Veterans for America

