



**Statement for the Record from Laricke Blanchard, USAA Senior Vice President of  
Government Relations, to the U.S. House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee  
on Health Legislative Hearing  
June 12, 2025**

On behalf of the United Services Automobile Association (USAA) and our nearly 14 million members of the U.S. military, veterans who have honorably served, and their families, thank you for convening today's hearing on legislative proposals to care for our nation's veterans and their families. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this statement of support for H.R. 2148, *the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act*.

USAA is a membership association that serves members of the military community, including active duty, Guard, Reserve, veterans, and their families. Since our founding in 1922 by 25 U.S. Army officers, USAA has facilitated the financial security of our members, associates, and their families by providing a full range of highly competitive financial products and services. In our second century of service, we remain focused on meeting our members' needs through every stage of life—from joining the military to buying a home to retiring.

**H.R. 2148, the Veteran Caregiver Reeducation, Reemployment, and Retirement Act**

In September 2024, RAND published a report commissioned by the Elizabeth Dole Foundation titled, "America's Military and Veteran Caregivers: Hidden Heroes Emerging from the Shadows." There are approximately 14.3 million military and veteran caregivers today, representing 5.5% of the U.S. adult population. According to RAND, these caregivers on average incur over \$8,500 in annual out of pocket costs, while forgoing over \$4,500 in annual household income. More than one-third of these caregivers live below 130% of the federal poverty level. Serving as a caregiver can also compound future financial challenges. Military and veteran caregivers often have employment gaps in their resume, which can impact their future employment and earnings prospects, and many lack retirement savings vehicles to invest in their own financial security.

This bipartisan bill will expand support available to veteran caregivers enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). It would provide employment assistance to eligible caregivers, including fee reimbursement associated with professional certifications or licenses. Caregivers would also be granted access to existing employment assistance programs through the VA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Labor. In recognition of the fact that caregivers are at higher risk of depression and suicidality, the bill expands caregiver access to bereavement counseling and support. The bill also directs the VA to study the feasibility of establishing a retirement plan or alternate pathway to retirement savings for veteran caregivers.

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USAA thanks Representatives Joseph Morelle (D-NY) and Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ) for their leadership on this important proposal to better support the caregivers who selflessly serve our nation. We urge the Committee to support the bill when considered during a future markup.