

EMBASSY OF THE
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

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January 16, 2026

The Honorable Michael Bost
Chair
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Mark Tacano
Ranking Member
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks
Subcommittee Chair
House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on
Health
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Julia Brownley
Subcommittee Ranking Member
House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on
Health
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Chairman Bost, Ranking Member Takano, Subcommittee Chair Miller-Meeks, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Brownley,

On behalf of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), I am writing in connection with the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health January 13th legislative hearing on the *U.S. Vets of the FAS Act* (H.R. 6652). This bipartisan legislation, led by Reps. King-Hinds (R-MP), Case (D-HI), Tokuda (D-HI) and Delegates Radewagen (R-AS) and Moylan (R-GU), would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish certain health services, including telehealth, mail order pharmacy, and beneficiary travel, to veterans of U.S. military service in the Freely Associated States (FAS), in a manner consistent with the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024.

Citizens of the FSM have served honorably and in significant numbers in the U.S. Armed Forces, underscoring the deep and enduring partnership between our nations. The U.S. and the FSM have a unique security and defense relationship, and the Compact of Free Association between our countries expressly contemplates that FSM citizens may serve in the U.S. military. Many have done so, and some have paid the ultimate price. After service in the U.S. military, many of these our veterans face often insurmountable challenges in accessing the health care benefits they have earned after they return home to the Freely Associated States. These barriers include often prohibitively costly travel to fly thousands of miles to U.S. VA facilities. This need to travel, the inherent delays in accessing U.S. care,

and the disruption of family and work lives can be mitigated through basic services that are made available to U.S. veterans. This is not a new issue, and the FSM government has requested VA services for our veterans in the FSM for decades.

Two years ago, we were optimistic about this issue being remedied in the amended Compact law. The Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2024 reaffirmed the special partnership between the United States and the FAS and, with very strong congressional intent in support of FSM veterans, granted new authorities to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to enhance health care for FSM citizens who served in the U.S. military.

Beginning in September 2024, the FSM government engaged in seven months of productive bilateral negotiations with the VA on a framework agreement for these services. Despite these constructive discussions and substantial progress, we were deeply disappointed when the VA abruptly suspending talks in April 2025, without prior consultation with the FSM and without regard for the undisputed needs of our veterans of U.S. military service. This development was contrary to clear congressional intent in the 2024 Compact Act.

In response, we have worked constructively with congressional offices and committees to pursue legislative solutions to ensure the VA carries out these authorities. We welcomed bipartisan efforts in both chambers to address this issue, including the introduction of the *Caring for Veterans and Strengthening National Security Act (S.3436)*, which passed the Senate unanimously in December 2025, and the *U.S. Vets of the FAS Act (H.R. 6652)*, now under consideration by this Committee. These measures reflect commitment of its sponsors to improving access to essential services, including telehealth, mail-order pharmacy benefits, and beneficiary travel, for veterans of U.S. military service residing in the FAS.

We appreciate the Committee's consideration of this legislation at this hearing and applaud the leadership of the House and Senate sponsors of these bills which are critical solutions to support our veterans. We look forward to collaborating with the committee on this legislation and working toward solutions that uphold the intent of the veterans' care provisions included in the COFA Amendments Act of 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackson Soram', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jackson Soram

FSM Ambassador to the United States