

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Mike Bost
Chair, House Veterans Affairs Committee
364 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Takano
Ranking Member, House Veterans Affairs Committee
2078 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jen Kiggans
Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations
152 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Delia Ramirez
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight
and Investigations
1523 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Statement for the Record: Opposition to Discussion Draft of Veterans Care Protection Act

Dear Chair Bost, Ranking Member Takano, Chairwoman Kiggans, and Ranking Member Ramirez:

On behalf of the National Alliance to End Homelessness (herein referred to as the Alliance), we write to express our opposition to a discussion draft titled the *Veterans Care Protection Act*. The Alliance is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose mission is to prevent and end homelessness.

The idea proposed in the discussion draft would give the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) authority to bring actions for guardianship in state courts for Veterans purportedly deemed unable to make decisions for themselves or provide consent regarding the next level of care. Such a measure would strip Veterans of the right to make their own decisions not only about healthcare but also the most basic aspects of their lives, including where they live. The Alliance is especially concerned about how this authority may be used to target Veterans experiencing homelessness, as highlighted in [internal VA documents](#) entered in the Congressional record at a hearing last week.

The [Department of Justice](#) itself highlights that, “Guardianship should be a last resort because it removes the individual’s legal rights and restricts the person’s independence and self-determination.” Actions to expand this process without considering less restrictive or more evidence-based solutions are dangerous. Placing veterans under guardianship will do nothing to address the real issue that these veterans face, which is the lack of availability and access to community-based services and housing. Instead, guardianship is a means to make decisions on behalf of Veterans to enter institutional settings and other locations where they would not willingly choose to live as well as treatment that may not be a good fit for the individual and their circumstances.

For decades, the VA has relied on public guardianship programs to take guardianship actions in the rare circumstances in which it is needed because it is a significant legal action that is hard to reverse for those who do not need that level of intensive care. In 2018, [the National Council on Disability submitted a report to President Trump](#) that highlighted that the restoration of rights for individuals incorrectly placed in guardianship or shown to be able to access a less restrictive means of care later faced significant wait times (often several years) and barriers to regaining their autonomy.

It is unconscionable, therefore, that the VA is now claiming that there are hundreds of Veterans in VA facilities for which it believes there is no less restrictive and burdensome option but for the VA to file its own guardianship petitions. This is particularly concerning

when considered in relationship to the [internal VA documents](#) entered in the Congressional record at a hearing last week. Those documents indicate that the VA's guardianship initiative was designed to target homeless veterans and implement the [Executive Order on Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets](#), which promotes the use of institutionalization and coercive strategies to address the needs of homeless people. It is alarming that the care of our Veterans is now subject to a political strategy that goes against decades of not only best practice, but also, the law.

The lack of transparency by the VA on this matter is troubling. In entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Justice Department to appoint VA attorneys as Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys for the purpose of filing and litigating guardianship petitions, it appears as though the VA is attempting to circumvent Congress and any statutory authority around guardianship petitions. Further, although the VA's witness at last week's hearing insisted that the initiative is limited to veterans in VA medical centers, the internal VA documents point to plans that are explicitly targeting homeless Veterans on the streets through outreach and other referral sources.

We urge you not to move forward with the *Veterans Care Protection Act* and to take action to stop implementation of the MOU between the VA and the Justice Department. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee on strategies and policies to continue the efforts of the VA over the last decade that have resulted in a decrease in Veterans experiencing homelessness by more than half.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Oliva
Chief Executive Officer
National Alliance to End Homelessness