



Statement for the record of the

**NATIONAL COALITION  
*for* HOMELESS VETERANS**

United States House of Representatives  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs,  
Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity

"Legislative Hearing"

January 21, 2026

Chairman Van Orden, Ranking Member Pappas, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity:

NCHV thanks you for the opportunity to offer views on legislation before the Committee. While there are several great bills today, we are providing statements on behalf of legislation which could directly affect efforts to prevent and or end homelessness among veterans and their families.

**A Draft Bill, The Veteran Housing Promise Act**

NCHV supports this legislation, which amends title 38 of the United States Code to **eliminate maximum authorizations of appropriations and make permanent the authority for several programs supporting homeless veterans** administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

For decades, VA's homelessness programs have been instrumental in reducing veteran homelessness. These efforts provide essential services such as outreach, housing assistance, employment reintegration, and supportive services for vulnerable populations—including women veterans and veterans with children. Yet the current patchwork of time-limited authorizations and funding caps poses significant challenges for program continuity, planning, and the ability of community providers to sustain the life-changing services veterans rely on.

By removing funding caps and time-limited authorizations, this legislation provides **long-term stability and predictability** for these proven programs. Such stability allows both VA and community-based partners to better coordinate care, invest in workforce development, and ensure that no veteran who has served our nation has to face homelessness or housing insecurity due to administrative uncertainty.

Key provisions of this bill—such as the permanent authority for the Domiciliary Care and Supportive Services for Very Low-Income Veteran Families program, and long-term authorization for grants benefiting homeless veterans with special needs—will strengthen the federal response and allow continued progress toward the shared goal of **ending veteran homelessness**.

**H.R. 7049, the Improving Mental Health Care and Coordination for Homeless Veterans Act.**

NCHV supports this bill, which seeks to address deficiencies in the referral process to homeless programs for veterans with positive screenings for housing instability in other clinical settings. VHA's homeless clinical screening tool is an important way that clinicians are able to identify

veterans facing housing instability, especially those who may not know help is available or who may not want to disclose their housing status. However, last month, the VAOIG found that in many instances unclear referral procedures and staff inconsistency in following them resulted in veterans screening positive but never receiving the housing referrals they requested or not receiving them within a 30-day timeline. It is unacceptable that bureaucratic processes or the lack thereof prevented veterans from accessing housing support and NCHV thanks Rep. Valadao and his cosponsors for moving quickly to address this issue.

The focus on timely assessment and intake planning will help VA house more veterans. Further, we appreciate his focus on ensuring VA identifies appropriate housing options for veterans quickly in addition to addressing long-term health and mental health needs. As the Committee considers this provision, we encourage frank discussions with VA to ensure that VAMCs are being allowed to hire sufficient staff to support these processes. Further, as team-based care management becomes more common, we encourage discussions around ensuring that staff have the appropriate skill sets to identify housing placements and support housing navigation rather than the usual clinical skills VA prioritizes.

In conclusion, we commend the Committee's leadership for advancing policies that recognize homelessness among veterans as not just a matter of housing, but of dignity, stability, and national responsibility. The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans and our partners stand ready to support implementation and continued oversight of these essential programs.