



VERBAL TESTIMONY

OF

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MISSION ROLL CALL

MAY 20, 2026

TO THE

HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

1. *H.R. 6733: The VISN Reform Act of 2025*
2. *H.R. 6580: The VA National Formulary Act of 2025*
3. *H.R. 6755: The Accountable Leadership for Veterans Act of 2025*
4. *H.R. 6599: The Leasing and Infrastructure Act of 2025*
5. *H.R. 6583: The VA Research Reform Act of 2025*
6. *H.R. 6549: The VA Contracting and Procurement Act*
7. *H.R. 6740: The VA TRUST Act*
8. *H.R. 6764: The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee Oversight Act of 2025*
9. *H.R. 6904: The Veterans Readiness and Employment Improvement and Accountability Act of 2025*
10. *H.R. 6843: Establishing the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration Act of 2025*
11. *H.R. 6861: The Consolidating Veteran Employment Services for Improved Performance Act*
12. *H.R. 6833: The Acquisition Reform and Cost Assessment Act of 2025*
13. *H.R.2303 - Board of Veterans' Appeals Attorney Retention and Backlog Reduction Act*
14. *H.R.210 - Dental Care for Veterans Act*
15. *H.R.3183 - SAFE STEPS for Veterans Act of 2025*

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16. H.R.5203 - To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update directives of the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the management of acute sexual assault, and for other purposes.

17. H.R.4114 - EVEST Act

18. H.R.3869 - Every Veteran Housed Act

19. H.R.2722 - VA Funding and Workforce Protection Act

20. Discussion Draft: Justice Involved Veterans

21. Discussion Draft: TEF Advisory Committee

22. Discussion Draft: TEF Assistant Secretary

23. Discussion Draft: Honor Vets Act

24. Discussion Draft: EHRM

Chairman Bost, Ranking Member Takano, and distinguished Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of Mission Roll Call and the veterans, families, and caregivers across the country whose voices we carry to Washington.

Mission Roll Call conducts regular survey research focused on the issues affecting veterans' lives. Our work is grounded in listening to veterans and identifying where policy, systems, and lived experience can be improved.

Over the past year, Mission Roll Call's surveys have shown that veterans do see areas where the VA is improving, particularly in overall quality of care and certain aspects of service delivery. There is a growing sense that the system is moving in the right direction. At the same time, veterans continue to experience some challenges with access, timeliness, and consistency¹. This reauthorization effort presents an opportunity to build on that progress and address the structural issues that continue to shape how veterans experience care.

What stands out in this reauthorization effort is the focus on improving the parts of the VA system veterans experience directly. In our surveys, veterans consistently identify access delays, inconsistency between facilities, difficulty navigating benefits and care systems, and bureaucratic friction as recurring challenges¹.

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The first area where this package strongly aligns with our data is research modernization. Veterans increasingly understand that promising treatments exist, particularly in areas like PTSD and traumatic brain injury, but many believe the system moves too slowly translating research into practical care. Our polling shows strong support for evaluating innovative therapies, including Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy². Legislation that improves coordination, standardizes data, and accelerates implementation helps move research closer to veterans. The faster we align the right solution with a veteran's need, the more likely that veteran is to thrive.

Second is formulary and access reform. Our TBI and healthcare access surveys consistently identified difficulty accessing specialized care as a major concern³. Veterans frequently report that distance and system barriers affect access to appointments, medications, and treatment options³. Efforts that improve transparency and standardize access across the system directly address issues that veterans repeatedly identify in our surveys.

Third is infrastructure and regional consistency. In our Veterans & Families survey, nearly half of respondents reported delays in VA healthcare services, and veterans reported an average drive time of more than 50 minutes to reach the nearest VA facility⁴. For many rural veterans, that distance becomes a barrier to care. Modernizing leasing, infrastructure delivery, and regional oversight goes beyond administrative reform and directly affects how quickly veterans can access care.

As we examine reauthorizing multiple aspects of the VA's systems, we also want to connect these efforts to the concept of Left of Clinical.

Too often, our systems wait until problems can only be solved in clinical settings before meaningful intervention begins. After decades of tracking veteran suicide data, outcomes are not improving. We devote more resources every year, yet the trend remains concerning. We must look at this problem differently.

At Mission Roll Call, we refer to this as "Left of Clinical"—supporting veterans before challenges escalate into crisis. Our April 2026 transition survey found many veterans did not



fully understand available VA benefits at separation, were not clearly offered enrollment opportunities, and received little meaningful follow-up after leaving service⁵. As a result, too many veterans enter civilian life without a clear path forward and begin to struggle with housing, employment, identity, and stability. The structure and support network that existed during service is no longer there, and they report difficulty rebuilding it. That gap is where risk compounds.

Outside the reauthorization package, Mission Roll Call sees alignment with several bipartisan bills before the Committee focused on prevention, transition, and long-term stability.

Our data shows that instability during transition overlaps with financial instability, housing insecurity, delayed access to care, and worsening mental health outcomes⁵. The EVEST Act addresses one of the key barriers identified in our surveys: many veterans do not know where to begin accessing benefits. Automatic enrollment reduces that friction at the point of transition.

The SAFE STEPS for Veterans Act reflects the importance of upstream intervention. Preventive measures, home modifications, and mobility support reduce downstream health decline and help veterans maintain independence.⁶

Mission Roll Call survey data shows significant concern surrounding housing affordability and homelessness risk among veterans⁶. Reforms that improve access and consistency, while engaging veterans earlier, will strengthen trust in the systems they rely upon to serve them.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today and for the Committee's continued work on behalf of veterans and their families.

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¹ Mission Roll Call, *VA Performance Survey*, February 2026. (Timeliness, consistency, and system performance)

² Mission Roll Call, *Innovating Care Survey*, July 2025. (Support for innovative therapies including HBOT)

³ Mission Roll Call, *TBI Care Survey*, August 2025, and *Community Care Surveys, 2022-2025*. (Barriers to care, delays, geographic access)

⁴ Mission Roll Call, *Veterans & Families Survey, 2024*, *TBI Care Survey*, August 2025, and *Community Care Survey*, January 2025. (44% delays; ~51-minute average travel time)

⁵ Mission Roll Call, *Transition & VA Enrollment Survey*, October 2025, and *VA's Role in Veteran Well-Being Survey*, September 2025. (Benefit awareness gaps, lack of post-separation follow-up, loss of camaraderie and support structures, and the importance of early engagement and connectedness)

⁶ Mission Roll Call, *Veterans & Families Survey, 2024*, and *Preventive Wellness Survey*, April 2026. (Housing insecurity, financial strain, and importance of early engagement and preventive support)

These surveys and related articles can be found at the following link:

<https://missionrollcall.org/the-mission/veteran-survey-archive/>