

**Congressman J. Luis Correa**  
**Subcommittee on Health**  
**Committee on Veterans Affairs**  
**Legislative Hearing**  
**Tuesday, April 17, 2018**

**H.R. 4334 – Improving Oversight of Women Veterans’ Care Act**

Thank you, Chairman Wenstrup, Ranking Member Brownley, and Members of the Subcommittee. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on my bipartisan legislation today: H.R. 4334, the Improving Oversight of Women Veterans’ Care Act. I am particularly grateful to my friend and colleague Ranking Member Brownley for her support of the bill.

Women represent the fastest growing population in the veteran community. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, there are about two million women veterans today. That number is expected to increase at an average rate of about 18,000 women per year for the next ten years. It is important that we ensure that women veterans receive quality care in a safe and dignified environment, as well as in a timely manner.

According to the Government Accountability Office, the Veterans Health Administration does not have performance measures to determine women veterans’ accessibility to gender-specific care delivered through certain community care programs despite having such metrics for Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3). Additionally, GAO reports that the Veterans Health Administration does not have accurate or complete data regarding VA medical centers’ compliance with environment of care standards for women veterans. Currently, medical centers must conduct regular inspections and report instances of noncompliance, but sometimes these cases are not reported to VHA.

My legislation will enhance the monitoring needed for effective oversight of women veterans’ by requiring VA to submit an annual report on veteran access to gender-specific care under community care contracts and quarterly reports on environment of care standards for women veterans. This will ensure we understand women veterans’ ability to access gender-specific health services.

I understand the legislation may require technical edits and I am open to working together with my colleagues to address those needed changes. Again, thank you for the chance to speak before the Subcommittee.