

**Rep. Jason Crow (CO-06) Submitted Remarks for House Veterans' Affairs Committee
Subcommittee on Health Legislative Hearing**

September 11, 2024

Chairman Bost, Ranking Member Takano, and Members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee:

I am proud to submit this testimony in support of my bill, the Veterans' Sentinel Act. After my military service, I came home to fight for veterans in my community, and I have witnessed firsthand the challenges that veterans face when transitioning to civilian life.

The Veterans' Sentinel Act was developed following an investigation that found multiple mistakes in the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) reporting of suicides that occur on campus. It is imperative that we improve the accuracy of data collection and enhance congressional oversight to better understand, and prevent, suicides by U.S. veterans at VA facilities. By increasing access to mental health resources, improving communication between VA agencies, and expanding support for veterans in crisis, this bill has the potential to save countless lives.

As you consider this crucial piece of legislation that addresses the critical issue of veteran suicide prevention, I urge you to remember that veterans are not just statistics – they are our friends, family members, and neighbors who have selflessly served our nation. They deserve our unwavering support and care.

The Veterans' Sentinel Act is a vital step towards ensuring that our veterans receive the care and support they need to thrive. I strongly endorse this legislation and encourage the committee to advance it swiftly.

Sincerely,



Jason Crow
Member of Congress