



JON'S BILLS

Signed into Law

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Senator Jon Tester has authored and passed six bipartisan bills that President Donald Trump has signed into law. He has worked with Republicans and Democrats to secure meaningful victories for Montana.



Government Accountability Office Access and Oversight Act

After \$125 billion in improper federal payments was reported, this bipartisan bill aims to reduce fraud, waste and abuse by allowing the Government Accountability Office to audit key federal government programs and give them access to data about unemployment insurance and wage data.



VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act

This bipartisan bill allows the VA to quickly fire bad employees without sacrificing the due process rights of dedicated VA employees. It also provides incentives for managers to address poor performance and misconduct, strengthens protections for whistleblowers, and improves VA leadership through additional training.



Veterans Choice Program Improvement Act

The Veterans Choice Program allows veterans to get health care at private providers. While it was crafted with the best of intentions, there have been some issues in Montana with the rollout of the Program. This bipartisan bill will reduce out-of-pocket costs for veterans and ensure that providers are getting paid in a more timely manner.



VA Choice and Quality Employment Act

This legislation streamlines the hiring process for hard-to-fill positions and helps address crippling workforce shortages by increasing recruitment efforts for talented students and recent graduates to work at the VA. It also creates a VA-wide database for vacant and hard-to-fill positions, and expands a private-public sector partnership to foster innovation and better practices at the VA.



Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistance Act

This bipartisan bill breaks down barriers to education and creates opportunities for Montana veterans, Reservists and their families. This bill removes the arbitrary 15-year time limit in which GI Bill benefits expire. It also allows Guardsmen and Reservists to count their training, deployments and medical treatment towards accruing education benefits, just like active duty service members. This legislation also honors the sacrifice of Purple Heart recipients by giving them full education benefits if their service was cut short by their injury.



Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act

This bipartisan bill will streamline the lengthy process that veterans undergo when appealing their claims for disability benefits with the VA. This bill replaces the current appeals process, which can take up to three years, with three separate options so the veteran can choose the path that is best for them. It also establishes deadline goals for how quickly the VA can issue a final decision on the appeal. This means appeal decisions are made at the local level, so veterans aren't forced to wait for D.C. bureaucrats to decide what benefits they can and can't receive.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA
JON TESTER