



The Deborah Sampson Act EMPOWERING WOMEN VETERANS

Deborah Sampson Gannett (December 17, 1760 – April 29, 1827), better known as Deborah Sampson, was a woman who disguised herself as a man in order to serve in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. She is one of a small number of women with a documented record of military combat experience in that war. She served 17 months in the army under the name “Robert Shirtliff” of Uxbridge, Massachusetts, was wounded in 1782, and was honorably discharged at West Point, New York, in 1783.

Peer-to-Peer Assistance

This bill strengthens services that empower women veterans to support one another by:

- **Initiating** a pilot program for peer-to-peer counseling for women veterans who are separating from the military and most at risk of becoming homeless.
- **Expanding** the capabilities of the existing women veterans call center to include text messaging.
- **Permanently giving** women veterans access to reintegration and readjustment counseling services in group retreat settings.

Legal & Support Services

This legislation directs the VA to partner with community organizations to provide support services for women veterans by:

- **Focusing** on addressing women veterans’ top 10 unmet needs including: prevention of eviction, child support issues & restoring driver’s licenses.
- **Authorizing** an increase of \$20 million to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program, that must be awarded to organizations supporting women veterans.

Maternity & Newborn Care

The Deborah Sampson Act improves the quality of care that the VA can provide to infant children of women veterans born at VA hospitals by:

- **Increasing**, from 7 to 14, the number of days the VA can provide care to a newborn child of a veteran who is receiving maternity care from the VA.
- **Ensuring** that women veterans and families do not pay out-of-pocket costs for medically-necessary transport for these newborns.

Eliminating Barriers to Care

This bill helps eliminate barriers to care that many women veterans face by:

- **Authorizing** \$20 million to retrofit VA medical centers to enhance privacy and improve the environment of care for women veterans being treated.
- **Requiring** every VA facility to have at least one full or part-time women’s health primary care provider on staff.
- **Expanding** the Women Veteran Program Manager program to ensure VA medical centers are equipped to properly coordinate and deliver care and benefits to women veterans.
- **Authorizing** an additional \$1 million annually for the Women Veterans Healthcare Mini-Residency Program.

Data Tracking and Reporting

This legislation improves the collection & analysis of data regarding women and minority veterans by:

- **Requiring** the VA to complete a report on the availability of prosthetics for women veterans throughout the VA.
- **Requiring** the VA to centralize all information for women veterans in one easily accessible location on their website.
- **Expressing** Congress’ belief that the VA motto should be more inclusive.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA

JON TESTER