

JON'S VETERANS BILLS

Signed into Law

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THIS CONGRESS



VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act

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



Veterans Choice Program Improvement Act

The Veterans Choice Program allows veterans to get health care outside the VA. While the program was crafted with good intentions, there have been issues with its rollout in Montana. This bipartisan bill addresses many of those issues while reducing out-of-pocket costs for veterans and ensuring providers get paid in a timely manner.



VA Choice and Quality Employment Act

This legislation streamlines the hiring process for hard-to-fill positions and helps address VA workforce shortages by increasing recruitment efforts. 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 removes the arbitrary 15-year time limit on G.I. Bill benefits for Montana veterans and their families and brings Guardsmen and Reservists benefits more in line with their active duty counterparts. This legislation also gives Purple Heart recipients full education benefits if their service was cut short by their injury.



Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act

This bipartisan bill streamlines the current disability benefits appeals process, so veterans 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 an appeal. This means veterans aren't forced to wait for D.C. bureaucrats to decide what benefits they can and can't receive.



VA Expiring Authorities Act

This bipartisan bill funds 20 VA programs that help rural, disabled and homeless veterans access mental and physical health care, while getting back on their feet. The bill also includes provisions from Jon's *Deborah Sampson Act*, which provides more opportunities for women veterans to seek readjustment counselling at the VA.



Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act

This bipartisan bill increases disability and survivor benefits for veterans and their families to help them keep up with the rising cost of housing, utilities and food. Disabled veterans and Gold Star Families will receive these increased benefit starting 12/1/17.



John Olsen Toxic Exposure Declassification Act

More than 50 years ago, the military conducted top secret weapons testing on thousands of its own men. During these tests—codenamed Project SHAD—military personnel were exposed to high levels of weaponized chemical agents and highly toxic carcinogens. Billings veteran John Olsen was one of them. Olsen sought treatment for subsequent medical issues at the VA, but because his medical records are still classified, the VA has denied Olsen care. This bill declassifies these records to get Olsen the medical care he deserves.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA
JON TESTER