



Building Resources and Access for Veterans' Mental Health Engagement (BRAVE) Act

The Challenge:

Too many veterans return home carrying unseen wounds that can linger long after their service ends. Suicide rates among women veterans are nearly 92% higher than that of non-veteran women. For their male counterparts, that rate is almost 60% higher. Providing timely, compassionate mental health support for veterans is essential for individual recovery and suicide prevention and helps ensure our nation upholds its sacred promise of caring for those who have served.

The Solution:

The BRAVE Act will strengthen and expand veterans' access to mental health care at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) while extending the life-saving Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program to help fight the scourge of veteran suicide.

Key Provisions of the BRAVE Act:

Improve the Workforce in Support of Veteran Mental Health Care: This bill waives the licensure requirement for psychologists and individual licensed professional mental health counselors for a reasonable time period to allow them to obtain their license.

Improve Vet Center Infrastructure and Technology: This bill requires a report to Congress to ensure Vet Centers are meeting the needs of veterans in rural areas and other high demand areas of the country.

Supporting Women Veterans: Past studies have found that the VA should tailor suicide prevention and mental health outreach messaging campaigns specifically for women veterans. This bill directs the VA to conduct additional research to ensure it is utilizing the most effective strategies to reach women veterans.

Extending the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program: This bill extends this lifesaving grant program for an additional three years and increases the maximum grant amount from \$750,000 to \$1,000,000.