



Veterans must have access to high quality, comprehensive, and veterans-centric health care as well as timely and accurate delivery of all earned benefits.

Strengthen, Reform and Sustain the VA Health Care System and Services

A. Protection of Specialized Services

The highest priority is to strengthen and sustain VA's specialized services, such as spinal cord injury/disease care, blinded care, poly-trauma care, and mental health care, which are not duplicated in the private sector.

Provide sufficient funding for VA to hire 1,000 additional bedside nurses to meet demand for services in the SCI/D system of care.

Ensure veterans who receive care in the community retain current protections unique to VA health care under Title 38 U.S.C., particularly including medical malpractice remedies governed by 38 U.S.C. Section 1151, clinical appeal rights, no-cost accredited representation, and Congressional oversight and public accountability.

B. Expand Eligibility for VA's Comprehensive Family Caregiver Program

Congress must expand eligibility for caregiver services provided through the VA's Comprehensive Family Caregiver Program veterans with service-connected injuries or illnesses incurred prior to September 11, 2001.

Reform of the Benefits Claims and Appeals Process

A. Comprehensive Reform of the Claims Appeals Process Needed

Support comprehensive reform of the benefit claims and appeals process to modernize and streamline the process, in accordance with the legislation developed and agreed to in 2016 by senior leaders of VA, VBA, the Board of Veterans Appeals, VSOs and other stakeholders.

B. Improve Benefits for Catastrophically Disabled Veterans

Improve benefits for veterans with the most severe disabilities, to include increasing the rates of Special Monthly Compensation as well as Aid and Attendance benefits.

Veterans with disabilities must have equity in access to the opportunities and freedoms available to all Americans to allow them to live, work, travel, and fully participate in society.

Strengthen and Protect the Integrity of the Systems and Civil Rights that Support People with Disabilities

A. Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) Problems for People with Disabilities

Improve access to air travel for people with disabilities by strengthening protections in the ACAA to ensure safe and efficient assistance and accommodations in air travel and increasing enforcement of these protections.

B. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Notification

Protect the rights of people with disabilities to seek redress of discriminatory barriers in public accommodations under the ADA by refusing to enact notification requirements under the ADA.

C. Protect and Strengthen Social Security and Medicare (Entitlement Reform)

American workers have earned these vital social insurance benefits. Because these programs represent an economic safety net for millions of Americans, Social Security and Medicare should be strengthened and efforts to undermine these programs through benefit cuts or privatization must be rejected.