

December 10, 2024

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Chairman  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Bost  
Chairman  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Takano  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Tester and Bost, and Ranking Members Moran and Takano:

The final days of the 118th Congress offer a narrow window of opportunity to finish important work and deliver significant victories for our nation's veterans, their caregivers, their families, and their survivors. We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our sincerest hope that your final negotiations around the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 8371) preserves critical progress towards addressing several of the most important challenges facing the communities we represent.

Our organizations have been briefed by your respective Staff Directors and understand that agreement to expand H.R. 8371 to include a legislative fix for Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) mental health residential rehabilitation treatment program (RRTP) access-to-care challenges remains elusive. We remain hopeful that you can reach a compromise. Similarly, we remain committed to dozens of other legislative solutions included in the bill that are on the precipice of being passed into law and would make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.

If the coming days present a decision on whether to proceed with H.R. 8371 without adoption of an RRTP provision, we urge you to move forward and pass this vital legislation. Tens of thousands will benefit immediately.

Under such a scenario, we pledge to make finding an RRTP solution one of our highest priorities for the 119th Congress and the incoming administration. VA must adhere to VA MISSION Act access standards, and those standards should unequivocally include RRTP. We will commit to finding a statutory and regulatory path forward while continuing to hold VA accountable to its ongoing efforts to improve RRTP access through policy and clear communication with veterans who desperately need this critical treatment. In the meantime, the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act will begin to address some of the most urgent needs of veterans and the people who care for them.

Thank you for your continued effort to support our nation's veterans, their caregivers, their families, and their survivors.

Sincerely,



Carl Blake  
Chief Executive Officer  
Paralyzed Veterans of America



Mario Marquez  
Executive Director  
The American Legion




Ryan M. Gallucci  
Executive Director  
VFW Washington Office



Edward R. Reese, Jr.  
Executive Director  
DAV Washington Headquarters



Steve Schwab  
Chief Executive Officer  
Elizabeth Dole Foundation



Brian T. Kelly  
Lieutenant General, U.S. Air Force (Ret)  
President and CEO  
Military Officers Association of America  
(MOAA)



Jose Ramos  
Vice President for Government  
and Community Relations  
Wounded Warrior Project



Bonnie Carroll  
President and Founder  
Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors