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117th Congress, 2d Session – – – – – – – – – – – – – House Report 117–688

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

ACTIVITIES REPORT

Submitted in accordance with House Rule XI,
Clause 1(D)(1)



DECEMBER 30, 2022.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House
on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

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LETTER OF SUBMITTAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, December 29, 2022.

Hon. CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk of the House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CLERK: Pursuant to rule XI, clause 1(d)(1), of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I hereby submit to the House a report on the legislative and oversight activities of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs during the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

MARK TAKANO,
Chairman.

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

MARK TAKANO, California, *Chairman*
MIKE BOST, Illinois, *Ranking Member*
(17–14) [1]

JULIA BROWNLEY, California
CONOR LAMB, Pennsylvania
MIKE LEVIN, California, *Vice-Chairman*
CHRIS PAPPAS, New Hampshire
ELAINE G. LURIA, Virginia
FRANK MRVAN, Indiana
SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Florida
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, Northern Mariana Islands
LAUREN UNDERWOOD, Illinois
COLIN Z. ALLRED, Texas
LOIS FRANKEL, Florida
ELISSA SLOTKIN, Michigan
DAVID TRONE, Maryland
MARCY KAPTUR, Ohio
RAUL RUIZ, M.D., California
RUBEN GALLEGO, Arizona
AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN, American Samoa
JACK BERGMAN, Michigan
JIM BANKS, Indiana
CHIP ROY, Texas
TRACEY MANN, Kansas
BARRY MOORE, Alabama
NANCY MACE, South Carolina
MADISON CAWTHORN, North Carolina
TROY NEHLS, Texas
MATT ROSENDALE, Montana
MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS, Iowa
JAKE ELLZEY, Texas
CONNIE CONWAY, California

MATT REEL, *Majority Staff Director*
MARIA TRIPPLAAR, *Minority Staff Director*

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[1] On February 2, 2022, Representative Anthony G. Brown of Maryland resigned his Committee membership, including the Subcommittees on Economic Opportunity and Technology Modernization.

On January 19, 2022, Representative Gregory F. Murphy of North Carolina resigned his Committee membership, including the Subcommittee on Health.

On August 24, 2021, Representative Jake Ellzey of Texas was appointed to the Committee, including the Subcommittees on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and Health.

On February 2, 2022, Representative Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick was appointed to the Committee, including the Subcommittees on Economic Opportunity and Technology Modernization.

On June 22, 2022, Representative Connie Conway of California was appointed to the Committee, including the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

Union Calendar No. 504

117TH CONGRESS *2d Session* | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | REPORT 117–688

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS ACTIVITIES REPORT

DECEMBER 30, 2022.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. TAKANO, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, pursuant to House Rule XI, Clause 1(D)(1), submitted the following

R E P O R T

JURISDICTION OF THE COMMITTEE

Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives establishes the standing Committees of the House and their jurisdiction. Under that rule, all bills, resolutions, and other matters relating to the subjects within the jurisdiction of any standing Committee shall be referred to such Committee. Clause 1(s) of rule X establishes the jurisdiction of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs as follows:

(1) Veterans' measures generally.

(2) Cemeteries of the United States in which veterans of any war or conflict are or may be buried, whether in the United States or abroad (except cemeteries administered by the Secretary of the Interior).

(3) Compensation, vocational rehabilitation, and education of veterans.

(4) Life insurance issued by the Government on account of service in the Armed Forces.

(5) Pensions of all the wars of the United States, general and special.

(6) Readjustment of servicemembers to civil life.

(7) Servicemembers' civil relief.

(8) Veterans' hospitals, medical care, and treatment of veterans.

ACTIVITIES OF THE FULL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS MEETINGS

Full Committee Business Meeting—Organization of the 117th Congress. On Thursday, February 11, 2021, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs met to formally organize the Committee's membership and to adopt the rules of the Committee for the 117th Congress.

Full Committee Business Meeting—Subcommittee Assignments. On September 13, 2021, the Full Committee met to formally assign Representative Jake Ellzey to the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee.

Full Committee Business Meeting—Subcommittee Assignments. On March 17, 2022, the Full Committee met to formally assign Representative Jake Ellzey to the Health Subcommittee and Representative Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick to the Economic Opportunity and Technology Modernization Subcommittees.

Full Committee Business Meeting—Subcommittee Assignments and Reauthorization of the Women Veterans Task Force. On July 19, 2022, the Full Committee met to formally assign Representative Connie Conway to the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee and to remove Representative Barry Moore from the Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee. The Committee also voted to reauthorize the Women Veterans Task Force for the remainder of the 117th Congress.

Full Committee Business Meeting—Discussion of VA Facility Naming Bills. On September 21, 2022, the Full Committee met to discuss the rules process designated by the Committee regarding VA facility naming bills.

MARKUPS

Full Committee Markup. On February 11, 2021, the Full Committee held a markup on A.N.S. to the Committee Print, to comply with reconciliation directives included in section 2001 (k) of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021, S. Con. Res. 5. The Committee Print's Recommendations to the House Committee on Budget, was ordered reported, as amended.

Full Committee Markup. On May 4, 2021, the full Committee held a markup on the Committee's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Views and Estimates Letter; H.R. 234, the Korean American VALOR Act; H.R. 2911, the VA Transparency and Trust Act of 2021; H.R. 2195, the Protecting the Employment Rights of Servicemembers Act; H.R. 1948, the VA Employee Fairness Act; H.R. 958, the Protecting Moms Who Served Act; H.R. 239, the Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act; H.R. 2441, the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021; H.R. 2545, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; H.R. 2093, the Veterans and Family Information Act; H.R. 2935, the VA Beneficiary Debt Collection Improvement Act; H.R. 293, the VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act; H.R. 1257, the Homeless Veterans Credit Act; H.R. 2704, the Improving VA Accountability to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act; H.R. 2788, the VA Equal Employment Counseling Modernization Act; H.R. 2429, the VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act;

H.R. 2726, the VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021; H.R. 290, to amend title 38, United States Code, to render an individual, who transfers certain educational assistance, to which the individual is entitled because of an agreement by such individual to serve in the Armed Forces, to a dependent of that individual, and who fails to complete such agreement, solely liable for the overpayment of such educational assistance; H.R. 2419, the Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans Act; H.R. 2494, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes; H.R. 2082, the VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act; A.N.S. to H.R. 711, the West LA VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021; A.N.S. to H.R. 1510, the Veterans Camera Reporting (VCR) Act; H.R. 2082, the VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act; A.N.S to H.R. 1448, the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act; A.N.S. to H.R. 2167, the GI Bill NEED Act; and A.N.S. to H.R. 2878, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program. The Committee's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Views and Estimates Letter, H.R. 234, H.R. 2911, H.R. 2195, H.R. 1948, H.R. 958, H.R. 239, H.R. 2441, H.R. 2545, H.R. 2093, H.R. 2935, H.R. 293, H.R. 1257, H.R. 2704, H.R. 2788, H.R. 2429, H.R. 2726, H.R. 290, H.R. 2419, H.R. 2494, and H.R. 2082 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 711, H.R. 1510, H.R. 1448, H.R. 2167, and H.R. 2878 were ordered reported, as amended.

Full Committee Markup. On June 24, 2021, the full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3967, the Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2021 and an A.N.S. to H.R. 3967. The Committee ordered H.R. 3967 reported, without amendment.

Full Committee Markup. On July 28, 2021, the full Committee held a markup on an A.N.S. to H.R. 4657, the Veteran Home Energy Savings Act; an A.N.S. to H.R. 912, the American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans Mental Health Act; an A.N.S. to H.R. 3856, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; an A.N.S. to H.R. 147, the Bringing Registered Apprenticeships to Veterans Education (BRAVE) Act; H.R. 4673—Ensuring Veterans' Smooth Transition (EVEST) Act; an A.N.S. to H.R. 4626, the VA Assessment by Independent Measures (AIM) Act; H.R. 4625, the VA Caregiver Transparency Act; and H.R. 4233, the Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act. H.R. 4673, H.R. 4625, and H.R. 4233 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 4657, H.R. 912, H.R. 3856, H.R. 147, and H.R. 4626 were reported, as amended.

Full Committee Markup. On September 13, 2021, the full Committee held a markup on an A.N.S. to the Committee Print, to comply with reconciliation directives included in section 2002 of the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022, S. Con. Res. 14. The Committee Print's Recommendations to the House Committee on Budget, was ordered reported, as amended.

Full Committee Markup. On November 4, 2021, the full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1836, the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021; H.R. 3944, the Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves Act of 2021; H.R. 5603, the Protections for Student Veterans Act; H.R. 4591, the VA Electronic Health Record Trans-

parency Act of 2021; H.R. 2250, the VA IT Reform Act of 2021; H.R. 5721, the VIPER Act; H.R. 2916, the VA Medical Cannabis Research Act of 2021; H.R. 5029, the Expanding the Families of Veterans Access to Mental Health Services Act; H.R. 5516, the VITAL Assessment Act; H.R. 5529, the Veterans Justice Outreach Improvement Act; H.R. 5671, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish seasonal influenza vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes; H.R. 2385, the Justice for Women Veterans Act; H.R. 5562, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include veterans of World War II; H.R. 1596, the Commission to Study the Stigmatization, Criminalization, and Ongoing Exclusion and Inequity for LGBTQ Servicemembers and Veterans Act; H.R. 4845, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Veterans; H.R. 3730, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes; H.R. 5607, the Justice for ALS Veterans Act; H.R. 5151, the Col. James Floyd Turner IV USMC GI Bill Transfer Act of 2021. H.R. 2916, H.R. 3730, H.R. 4845, H.R. 5029, H.R. 5562, H.R. 5607, and H.R. 5721 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 1596, H.R. 1836, H.R. 2250, H.R. 2385, H.R. 3944, H.R. 4591, H.R. 5151, H.R. 5516, H.R. 5529, H.R. 5603, and H.R. 5671 were ordered reported, as amended.

Full Committee Markup. On February 2, 2022, the Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5575, the VA Nurse and Physician Assistant RAISE Act, and H.R. 6411, the STRONG Veterans Act of 2022. H.R. 5575 was ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 6411 was ordered reported, without amendment.

Full Committee Markup. On April 6, 2022, the Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5738, the Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act; H.R. 6961, the Dignity for MST Survivors Act; H.R. 2724, the VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act; H.R. 7335, the Improving Military Sexual Trauma Claims Coordination Act; H.R. 6052, the VA OIG Training Act; H.R. 7277, the Improving Oversight of Veterans Community Care Providers Act of 2022; H.R. 7393, the Improving VA Workforce Diversity through Minority-Serving Institutions Act of 2022; H.R. 2428, the Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021; H.R. 7369, the Veteran Eligibility for Necessities to Undertake Rewarding Entrepreneurship (VENTURE) Act; H.R. 6376, the Student Veteran Work Study Modernization Act; H.R. 7375, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update the payment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to allow for electronic fund transfer of educational assistance, administered by the Secretary, to a foreign institution of higher education; H.R. 2326, the Veterans Cyber Risk Awareness Act; H.R. 7158, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act; H.R. 5754, the Patient Advocate Tracker Act; H.R. 6064, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for a review of examinations, furnished by the Secretary, to individuals who submit claims to the Secretary for compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, for mental and

physical conditions linked to military sexual trauma; H.R. 7153, the Department of Veterans Affairs Principles of Benefits Automation Act; and H.R. 6604, the VETS Credit Act. H.R. 7393, H.R. 6052, H.R. 2428, H.R. 7369, H.R. 7375, H.R. 7335, H.R. 2326, H.R. 7158, H.R. 5754, and H.R. 6064 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 6961, H.R. 2724, H.R. 7277, H.R. 6376, H.R. 5738, H.R. 7153, and H.R. 6604 were ordered reported, as amended.

Full Committee Markup. On July 19, 2022, the Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 8260, the Fast Payments to Veteran Survivors Act of 2022; H.R. 7846, the Veterans' Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act of 2022; H.R. 7299, the Strengthening VA Cybersecurity (SVAC) Act of 2022; H.R. 8003, the Restore Veterans Dignity Act of 2022; H.R. 8215, the VOICE Act of 2022; H.R. 6647, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; H.R. 5606, the Return Home to Housing Act; H.R. 5776, the Serving our LGBTQ Veterans Act; H.R. 6823, the Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Service for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2022; H.R. 3693, the VA CPE Modernization Act; H.R. 291, the VA COST SAVINGS Enhancement Act; H.R. 5752, the Emergency Relief for Servicemembers Act; H.R. 7939, the Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act of 2022; H.R. 7188, the Modernizing Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Benefit Questionnaires Act; H.R. 7735, the Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefit Act of 2022; H.R. 8313, the House Every Veteran Act; H.R. 5916, the Wounded Warrior Access Act; H.R. 6671, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that a member of the Armed Forces, granted a general discharge under honorable conditions on the sole basis that such a member failed to obey a lawful order to receive a vaccine for COVID 19, is eligible for certain educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. H.R. 8260, H.R. 7846, H.R. 8003, H.R. 8215, H.R. 6647, H.R. 5606, and H.R. 5776 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 7299, H.R. 6823, H.R. 3693, H.R. 291, H.R. 5752, H.R. 7939, H.R. 7188, H.R. 7735, H.R. 8313, H.R. 5916, and H.R. 6671 were ordered reported, as amended.

Full Committee Markup. On September 21, 2022, the Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 6273, the VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Project Act of 2021; H.R. 3793, the Supporting Families of the Fallen Act; H.R. 8888, the Food Security for All Veterans Act; H.R. 8852, the End Veteran Hunger Act of 2022; H.R. 8875, the Expanding Home Loans for Guard and Reservists Act; H.R. 2800, the WINGMAN Act; H.R. 8510, the Strengthening Whistleblower Protections at the Department of Veterans Affairs Act; H.R. 5918, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces to certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance; H.R. 1957, the Veterans Infertility Treatment Act of 2021; H.R. 4601, the Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act; H.R. 3304, the CARS for Vets Act; H.R. 2521, the Doula for VA Act of 2021; H.R. 7589, the REMOVE Copays Act. H.R. 6273, H.R. 3793, H.R. 8888, H.R. 8852, H.R. 8875, H.R. 2800,

were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 5918, H.R. 1957, H.R. 8510, H.R. 4601, H.R. 3304, H.R. 2521, H.R. 7589 were ordered reported, as amended.

Full Committee Markup. On November 16, 2022, the Full Committee held a markup on H. Res. 1379, of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to wait times for veterans to receive primary care, mental health care, and specialty care appointments at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 4772, the Mark O'Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act. H.R. 4772 was ordered reported, without amendment. H. Res. 1379 was reported unfavorably, as amended.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Full Committee Hearing—"Joint House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs Hearing to receive the Legislative Presentation of Disabled American Veterans and Multi-VSOs"

On March 3, 2021, the Full Committee held a joint hearing with the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to receive the legislative priorities of Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Student Veterans of America (SVA), Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA), Minority Veterans of America (MVA), and National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV). DAV, SVA, BVA, MOAA, NASDVA, MVA, and NCHV presented their legislative priorities to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees for fiscal year 2021. There were two witness panels. The following witnesses from DAV testified on the first panel: Mr. Stephen "Butch" Whitehead, National Commander; Mr. Edward R. "Randy" Reese, Jr., Executive Director of the National Service and Legislative Headquarters; Mr. Jim Marszalek, National Service Director; and Ms. Joy J. Ilem, National Legislative Director.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Thomas A. Zampieri, Ph.D., National President, BVA; Mr. John Hilgert, Director of the Nebraska Department of Veterans' Affairs, NASDVA; Mr. Cory Titus, Director of Government Relations for Veterans' Benefits, MOAA; Mr. Jared Lyon, National President and CEO, SVA; Ms. Lindsay Church, Executive Director and Co-Founder, MVA; and Ms. Kathryn Monet, Chief Executive Officer, NCHV.

Full Committee Hearing—"Joint House and Senate Committees on Veterans" Affairs Hearing to receive the Legislative Presentation of The American Legion and Multi-VSOs"

On March 4, 2021, the full Committee held a joint hearing with the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to receive the legislative priorities of The American Legion (TAL), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Jewish War Veterans (JWV), Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), Wounded Warriors Project (WWP), and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA). TAL, VVA, PVA, JWV, MOPH, WWP,

and IAVA presented their legislative priorities to the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees for fiscal year 2021. There were two witness panels. The following witnesses from TAL testified on the first panel: Mr. James "Bill" Oxford, National Commander; Mr. Vincent James Troiola, Chairman of the Legislative Commission; Mr. Lawrence Montreuil, National Legislative Director; Mr. Ralph Bozella, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission; Mr. Mario Marquez, Director of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation; Mr. Daniel Seehafer, Chairman of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission; and Mr. Joe Sharpe, Director of Veterans Employment and Education.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. John Rowan, National President/CEO, VVA; Mr. David Zurfluh, National President, PVA; Mr. Jeffrey Sacks, National Commander, JWV; Mr. Ernie Rivera, National Commander, MOPH; Mr. Michael S. Linnington, LTG (ret), U.S. Army, Chief Executive Officer, WWP; and Mr. Jeremy Butler, CEO, IAVA.

Full Committee Hearing—"Joint House and Senate Committees on Veterans" Affairs Hearing to receive the Legislative Presentation of The American Legion and Multi-VSOs"

On March 18, 2021, the full Committee held a joint hearing with the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to receive the legislative priorities of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and Multi VSOs: American Veterans (AMVETS), Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. (GSW), National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS). There were two witness panels. The following witnesses from VFW testified on the first panel: Mr. Hal J. Roesch II., National Commander; Mr. Vincent "BJ" Lawrence, Executive Director—Washington Office; Mr. Patrick Murray, Director—National Legislative Service; Mr. Ryan Gallucci, Director—National Veteran Service.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Jan Brown, National Commander, AMVETS; Mr. Michael F. "Mick" Fulton, National President, FRA; Ms. Nancy Menagh, National President, GSW; Ms. Fawn Sharp, President, NCAI; and Mr. Richard Kingsberry, President, NABVETS.

Full Committee Legislative Hearing—"H.R. 1273, H.R. 1355, H.R. 1585, H.R. 1972, H.R. 2127, H.R. 2268, H.R. 2368, H.R. 2372, H.R. 2436, H.R. 2530, H.R. 2569, H.R. 2580, H.R. 2607, H.R. 2742, H.R. 2825"

On May 5, 2021, the Full Committee met in open session for a legislative hearing on the above legislation. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Representative Mike Bost (Illinois), Representative Elaine G. Luria (Virginia), Representative Troy E. Nehls (Texas), Representative Chris Pappas (New Hampshire), Representative Elissa Slotkin (Michigan), Representative Raul Ruiz (California), Representative Stephen F. Lynch (Massachusetts), Representative Bruce Westerman (Arkansas), Representative Lee M. Zeldin (New York), Representative Paul Tonko (New York), Representative Matt Cartwright (Pennsylvania), Representative

Jahana Hayes (Connecticut), and Representative Gregory F. Murphy (North Carolina).

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Ronald Burke, Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Beth Murphy, Executive Director for Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Patricia R. Hastings, Chief Consultant for Post Deployment Health Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Karl Kelsey, Professor of Epidemiology, Pathology, and Laboratory Medicine, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

The following witness testified on the third panel: Mr. Aleksandr Morosky, Government Affairs Specialist, Wounded Warrior Project; Mr. Travis Horr, Director, Government Affairs, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Mr. Shane L. Liermann, Deputy National Legislative Director for Benefits, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Kristina Keenan, Associate Director, Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.; and Mr. James L. Price, Veteran.

Full Committee Hearing—"Joint House and Senate Committees on Veterans" Affairs Hearing to receive the Legislative Presentation of the Disabled American Veterans"

On March 1, 2022, the Full Committee held a joint hearing with the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to receive the legislative priorities of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). There was one witness panel. The following witnesses from DAV testified on this panel: Mr. Andrew H. Marshall, National Commander; Mr. J. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant; Mr. Barry Jesinoski, Executive Director, National Headquarters; Mr. Edward R. Reese, Jr., Executive Director, Washington Headquarters; Mr. Jim Marszalek, National Service Director; Ms. Joy Ilem, National Legislative Director; and Mr. John Kleindienst, National Director, Voluntary Services.

Full Committee Hearing—"Joint House and Senate Committees on Veterans" Affairs Hearing to receive the Legislative Presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and Multi VSOs"

On March 2, 2022, the Full Committee held a joint hearing with the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to receive the legislative priorities of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and Multi VSOs: Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), American Veterans (AMVETS), the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV), the Service Women's Action Network (SWAN), the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), the Black Veterans Empowerment Council (BVEC), and the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA). There were two witness panels. The following witnesses from VFW testified on the first panel: Mr. Matthew "Fritz" Mihelcic, Commander-in-Chief; Mr. Patrick Murray, National Legislative Director; Mr. Ryan Gallucci, National Service Director; and Mr. Jay Hoffman, Legislative Committee Chair.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Jeremy Butler, CEO, IAVA; Lieutenant General Michael S. Linnington, U.S. Army (Ret.), CEO, WWP; Mr. Jack McManus, National President, VVA; Mr. Greg Heun, National Commander, AMVETS; Ms. Kathryn Monet, Executive Director, National Headquarters, NCHV; Captain Lory Manning, U.S. Navy (Ret,), SWAN; Mr. Joseph D. McNeil, Sr., National President, BVA; Mr. Victor LaGroon, Director, BVEC; and Mr. Thomas "Tom" Palladino, President and Executive Director of the Texas Veterans Commission, NASDVA.

Full Committee Hearing—"Joint House and Senate Committees on Veterans" Affairs Hearing to receive the Legislative Presentation of the American Legion and Multi VSOs"

On March 8, 2022, the Full Committee held a joint hearing with the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee to receive the legislative priorities of the American Legion (TAL) and Multi VSOs: the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society (BATAAN), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA); Student Veterans of America (SVA), Military Offices Association of America (MOAA), Gold Star Wives of America (GSW), National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Inc. (TAPS), and Modern Military Association of America (MMAA). There were two witness panels. The following witnesses from TAL testified on the first panel: Mr. Paul E. Dillard, National Commander; Mr. Lawrence Montreuil, National Legislative Director; Mr. Ralph Bozella, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission, Mr. James LaCoursiere, Chairman of the Veterans Employment and Education Commission; Mr. Joe Sharpe, Director of Veterans Employment and Education; and Ms. Katie Purswell, Director of Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Jan Thompson, President, BATAAN; Mr. Charles "Charlie" Brown, National President, PVA; Mr. Jared Lyon, National President and CEO, SVA; Commander Rene Campos, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Senior Director, Government Relations for Veterans—Wounded Warrior Care, MOAA; Ms. Claire Manning-Dick, Vice President, GSW; Brigadier General J. Roy Robinson, U.S. Army (Ret.), President, NGAUS; Major Bonnie Carroll, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), President and Founder, TAPS; and Ms. Jennifer Dane, CEO and Executive Director, MMAA.

Full Committee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on a discussion draft, the VA Housing Loan Forever Act of 2022"

On December 14, 2022, the Full Committee held a legislative hearing on the discussion draft of the "VA Housing Loan Forever Act of 2022." The following witness testified on the first panel: Representative Jim Clyburn (South Carolina). The following witness testified on the second panel: Mr. John Bell III, Executive Director of the VA Home Loan Guaranty Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the third panel: Mr. Richard Brookshire, Co-Founder, Black Veterans Project; Ms. Mitria Spotser, Consultant,

The Center for Responsible Lending; and Mr. Joseph Sharpe, Director of Veterans Employment and Education, The American Legion.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Full Committee Hearing—"Restoring Faith by Building Trust: VA's First 100 Days"

On March 25, 2021, the full Committee met in open session to allow the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to lay out his priorities and goals for the Department. This hearing provided an opportunity for the Secretary present to the Committee how he intends to lead VA in delivering care and services to veterans now and in the future, while taking into account veterans' rapidly changing demographics and the multiple large, ongoing projects that seek to modernize the enterprise. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: The Honorable Denis R. McDonough, Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Full Committee Hearing—"Committee on Veterans" Affairs Bipartisan Member Day Hearing"

On May 26, 2021, the full Committee met in open session to receive testimony from Members of Congress on legislation and veterans' issues within the Committee's jurisdiction for the 117th Congress.

There were two witness panels. The following Members testified on the first panel: Representative Peter Welch (Vermont), Representative Robert Wittman (Virginia), Representative Rashida Tlaib (Michigan), Representative Ashley Hinson (Iowa), Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (Texas), Representative Brian Higgins (New York), Representative Grace Meng (New York), Representative Michael Cloud (Texas), Representative Lizzie Fletcher (Texas), and Representative French Hill (Arkansas). The following Members testified on the second panel: Representative Derek Kilmer (Washington), Representative Fred Keller (Pennsylvania), Representative Mikie Sherrill (New Jersey), Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (Pennsylvania), Representative Michael San Nicolas (Guam), Representative Andy Biggs (Arizona), Representative Brad Wenstrup (Ohio); Representative Buddy Carter (Georgia), Representative Vern Buchanan (Florida), Representative Warren Davidson (Ohio), Representative Gus Bilirakis (Florida), Representative Peter Meijer (Michigan), Representative Angie Craig (Minnesota), and Representative Kaialiʻi Kahele (Hawaii).

Full Committee Hearing—"Investing in a Better VA: Examining the Role of Infrastructure in Veterans' Access to Care and Benefits"

On May 27, 2021, the full Committee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to examine all aspects of VA infrastructure, particularly in light of the Biden Administration's proposal to invest in VA through the American Jobs Plan (AJP). Specifically, the Committee examined three facets of infrastructure investment at the hearing: (1) physical infrastructure, which includes modernized facilities that meet the changing needs and demographics of veterans, information technology (IT), advances in research, and

emergency preparedness; (2) human capital, which includes investment in VA's clinical, IT, and management workforce that enable it to expand and promote veteran-focused care and services, and (3) systems of support, which includes investments in programs and processes that ensure veterans can access VA no matter who they are, when they served, or where they live.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Mr. Brett Simms, Executive Director, Office of Asset and Enterprise Management, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Paul Brubaker, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Information and Technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Jessica Bonjorni, Chief, Veterans Health Administration Human Capital Management, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: The Honorable Anthony Principi, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs (2001–2005); Mr. Phillip Longman, Author, *Best Care Anywhere: Why VA Healthcare is Better Than Yours;* Mr. Patrick Murray, National Legislative Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Joy Ilem, National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Morgan Brown, Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; and Mr. Bruce Carruthers, Steering Committee Member, Save Our VA.

Full Committee Hearing—"U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2022"

On June 8, 2021, the full Committee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to examine the VA's fiscal year (FY) 2022 budget and how the Administration plans to fund VA priorities in the coming year and beyond.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: The Honorable Denis McDonough, Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Jon Rychalski, Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Richard C. Loeb, Senior Policy Counsel, American Federation of Government Employees; Mr. Shane Liermann, Deputy National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Roscoe Butler, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Mr. Patrick Murray, Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Mr. Joe Chenelly, National Executive Director, AMVETS.

Full Committee Hearing—"Veteran Suicide Prevention: Innovative Research and Expanded Public Health Efforts"

On September 22, 2021, the full Committee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to examine ongoing and new suicide research and prevention efforts of the Veterans Health Administration.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Dr. Kameron Matthews, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, Veterans Health Administration; Dr. Matthew Miller, Executive Director, Suicide Prevention Program, Veterans Health Administration; and Dr. Lisa Brenner, Director, Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center for Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Adminis-

tration. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Legislative Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Kaitlynne Hetrick, Associate for Government Affairs, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Ms. Jennifer Silva, Chief Program Officer, Wounded Warrior Project; Chief William Smith, Chairman, National Indian Health Board; Mr. Nick Armendariz, veteran; and Dr. Rajeev Ramchand, Co-Director, RAND Epstein Family Veterans Policy Research Institute, RAND Corporation.

Full Committee Roundtable—"The True Cost of Our Promise to Toxic-Exposed Veterans"

On January 19, 2022, the Full Committee hosted a public-facing, virtual roundtable to discuss the Honoring our PACT Act—Chairman Takano's bipartisan, comprehensive legislation to address in-service toxic exposures. The roundtable format consisted of opening statements from the Chair and Ranking Member, immediately followed by an open discussion guided by talking through each of the seven titles of the bill one at a time, with designated VSO representatives called on by the Chair and leading off title conversations.

The following individuals participated in the roundtable discussion: Mr. Jon Stewart, Veterans Advocate; Mr. John Feal, Veterans Advocate; Ms. Rosie Lopez Torres, Executive Director, Burn Pits 360; Mr. Patrick Murray, Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Mr. Shane Liermann, Deputy National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Ronald Brown, Toxic Wounds Consultant, Vietnam Veterans of America; Lindsay Church, Executive Director, Minority Veterans of America; Mr. Aleks Morosky, Deputy Director, Government Affairs, Wounded Warrior Project; Ms. Jen Burch, Government Relations and Communications Associate, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Mr. Advaith Thampi, Legislative Associate, The American Legion; Mr. Cory Titus Director, Veteran Benefits and Guard/Reserve Affairs, Military Officers Association of America; Mr. Roscoe Butler, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; and Mr. Jim Vale, National Service Director, Veterans Benefits and Policy, Blinded Veterans Association.

Full Committee Oversight Hearing—"Building a Better VA: Addressing Healthcare Workforce Recruitment and Retention Challenges"

On March 17, 2022, the Full Committee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing on hiring and staffing challenges at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This hearing examined the state of human resources management at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the extent to which VA is addressing longstanding challenges with clinical workforce recruitment and retention that may impede veterans' access to timely, high-quality health care. The Committee evaluated the effectiveness of VA's recent reorganization of human resources staff, which resulted in the consolidation of services at the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) level, and the extent to which VHA recruitment and onboarding actions are being completed in a timely manner. In addition, the Committee examined the implementation

of the "HR Smart" information technology system and the extent to which it has helped improve VA's ability to manage clinical positions and document various human resources transactions. Further, the Committee also reviewed the Department's progress in validating existing positions, developing position descriptions, and developing staffing models for each VHA occupation.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Ms. Gina Grosso, Assistant Secretary for Human Resources Administrations, Operations Security, and Preparedness, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Jessica Bonjorni, Chief, VHA Human Capital Management, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Mary Jean "MJ" Burke, First Executive President, National VA Council, American Federation of Government Employees; and Ms. Irma Westmoreland, RN, Vice President and Veterans Affairs Chair, National Nurses United.

Full Committee Oversight Hearing—"U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2023"

On April 28, 2022, the Full Committee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing reviewing the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for fiscal year 2023. There were two witness panels. The following witness testified on the first panel: The Honorable Denis McDonough, Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Shane Liermann, Deputy National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Legislative Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Mr. Morgan Brown, National Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Full Committee Oversight Hearing—"Examining Women Veterans' Access to the Full Spectrum of Medical Care, Including Reproductive Healthcare, Through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration"

On September 15, 2022, the full Committee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing on women veterans' access to the full spectrum of medical care, including reproductive healthcare, through VHA. The Committee addressed women veterans' access to primary care, mammography, contraception, prenatal care, maternity care, infertility treatment, care for pregnancy complications, abortion care, and peri- and post-menopausal care.

There were two witness panels. The following witness testified on the first panel: Dr. Shereef Elnahal, Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Patricia Hayes, Chief Officer, Women's Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Amanda Johnson, Director, Women's Reproductive Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Julianne Flynn, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Community Care, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Dr. Ginny Ryan, Professor and Division Chief, Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, University of Wash-

ington Medical Center Montlake; Lindsay Church, U.S. Navy Veteran; and Kayla M. Williams, Senior Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation.

Full Committee Oversight Hearing—"Veteran Suicide Prevention: Capitalizing on What Works and Increasing Innovative Approaches"

On September 29, 2022, the full Committee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to examine ongoing and new suicide research and prevention efforts of the Veterans Health Administration.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Dr. Tamara Campbell, Acting Executive Director, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Matthew Miller, Executive Director, Suicide Prevention Program, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Lisa Brenner, Director, Rocky Mountain Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center for Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Chuck Hoskin, Jr., Principal Chief, Cherokee Nation; Shauna Humphreys, Director of Behavioral Health, Choctaw Nation; Jenna Larson, Youth Services Coordinator, Aleutian Pribilof Island Association; Michael Blecker, Executive Director, Swords to Plowshares; Wendy McClinton, CEO, Black Veterans for Social Justice; and Jim Lorraine, President and CEO, America's Warrior Partnership.

Full Committee Oversight Hearing—"Fulfilling our PACT: Ensuring Effective Implementation of Toxic Exposure Legislation"

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing titled "Fulfilling our PACT: Ensuring Effective Implementation of Toxic Exposure Legislation." The Committee assessed a range of issues related to implementation of the Honoring our PACT Act, including but not limited to clear and consistent application of new presumptive illnesses, accurate and timely processing of disability claims, information technology upgrades and automation of claims processing, and implementation of new recruitment and retention authorities.

There was one witness panel. The following witnesses testified on this panel: Dr. Shereef Elnahal, Under Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Joshua Jacobs, Senior Advisor for Policy performing the delegable duties of the Under Secretary for Benefits, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Guy T. Kiyokawa, Assistant Secretary for Enterprise Integration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. John W. Boerstler, Chief Veterans Experience Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Michael R. Brumage, Deputy Chief Consultant, Health Outcomes Military Exposures, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Robert T. Reynolds, Deputy Under Secretary for Disability Assistance, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Tracey

Therit, Chief Human Capital Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Full Committee Oversight Hearing—"Review of the Role of VA's Fourth Mission and Pandemic Response"

On Tuesday, December 13, 2022, the full Committee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing examining VA's fourth mission and pandemic response.

There were two witness panels. The following witness testified on the first panel: Maj. Gen. (RET) Richard Stone, MD, former Executive in Charge, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Paul Kim, former Executive Director, Office of Emergency Management, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Dr. Steven Lieberman, Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Tammy Czarnecki, Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Jane Kim, Executive Director for Preventative Medicine, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Carla Boyce, Executive Director, Office of Operations, Security, and Preparedness, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Roselyn Tso, Director, Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

INVESTIGATIVE HEARINGS

Full Committee Hearing—"Domestic Violent Extremist Groups and the Recruitment of Veterans"

On October 13, 2021, the full Committee met in open session to conduct a two-panel investigative hearing to examine the nature of the scope of threats posed by domestic violent extremist groups which seek to recruit and radicalize veterans.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Mr. Joe Plenzler, Retired Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps; Mr. Jeremy Butler, Chief Executive Officer, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Dr. Seth Jones, Senior Vice President, Center for Strategic and International Studies; and Dr. Cynthia Miller-Idriss, Director of the Polarization and Extremism Research & Innovation Lab, American University. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Dr. Sam Jackson, Assistant Professor in the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity, University at Albany; Dr. Amy Cooter, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Vanderbilt University; Mr. Oren Segal, Vice President of the Center on Extremism, Anti-Defamation League; and Dr. Heidi Beirich, Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer, Global Project Against Hate and Extremism.

Full Committee Hearing—"Helping Veterans Thrive: The Importance of Peer Support in Preventing Violent Extremism"

On March 31, 2022, the full Committee met in open session to conduct a two-panel investigative hearing to examine various risk factors that place a small but growing number of military veterans

at risk of radicalization and recruitment domestic violent extremist groups and to identify and evaluate various civil society efforts to combat violent extremism.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Dr. John Horgan, Distinguished University Professor, Department of Psychology, Georgia State University; Dr. Pete Simi, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Chapman University; Mr. William Braniff, Co-Founder and Board Member, We the Veterans; Ms. Vidhya Ramalingam, CEO and Founder, Moonshot; and Mr. Chris Purdy, Director, Veterans for American Ideals, Human Rights First. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Chris Buckley, Veteran, U.S. Army; Ms. Emma Jouenne, Director of Programs & Research on Extremism, Parents for Peace; Mr. Joe Chenelly, National Executive Director, American Veterans; and Ms. Sarah Streyder, Executive Director, Secure Families Initiative.

ROUNDTABLES

Full Committee Roundtable—"The True Cost of our Promise to Toxic-Exposed Veterans"

On January 19, 2022, minority members held a roundtable that was open to the public regarding toxic exposure and costs. Attendees included: Mr. Jon Stewart, Veterans Advocate; Mr. John Feal, Veterans Advocate; Ms. Rosie Lopez Torres, Executive Director, Burn Pits 360; Mr. Patrick Murray, Director, National Legislative Services, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Mr. Shane Liermann, Deputy National Legislative Director, Disabled Veterans of America; Mr. Ronald Brown, Toxic Wounds Consultant, Vietnam Veterans of America; Lindsey Church, Executive Director, Minority Veterans of America; Mr. Aleks Morosky, Deputy Director, Government Affairs, Wounded Warrior Project; Ms. Jen Burch, Government Relations and Communications Associate, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Mr. Advaith Thampi, Legislative Associate, The American Legion, Mr. Cory Titus, Director of Veteran Benefits and Guard/Reserve Affairs, Military Officers Association of America; Mr. Roscoe Butler, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; and Mr. Jim Vale, National Service Director, Veterans Benefits and Policy, Blinded Veterans of America.

Full Committee Roundtable—"VA Asset and Infrastructure Review"

On April 5, 2022, the minority members conducted a roundtable to discuss VA's recommendations for medical facility realignments and closures and the forthcoming Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR process). Attendees included: The Honorable Anthony Principi, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs (2001–2005, Chair of the 2005 Military Base Realignment and Closure Commission; and Mr. Darin Selnick, Senior Advisor for Concerned Veterans for America, former Veterans Affairs Advisor, White House Domestic Policy Council.

Full Committee Roundtable—"Improving Servicemember's Transition to Civilian Life"

On June 16, 2022, the minority members conducted a roundtable on making improvements of a servicemembers' transition to civilian life. The participants included: Ms. Binal Patel, Vice President, Act Now Education; Mr. Michael Quinn, CEO, HireMilitary; Ms. Julie Howell, Associate National Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Mr. Darrell Owens, Director of Government Affairs, America's Warrior Partnership; and Ms. Brittany Dymond, Associate Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Full Committee Roundtable—"Protecting Veterans' Second Amendment Rights"

On, May 13, 2022, the minority members conducted a roundtable on VA's policy of reporting veterans, who have been appointed a fiduciary to manage their VA financial benefits, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Attendees included Mr. Shane Liermann, Deputy National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Alex Large, Director, Federal Affairs, National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action; Mr. Advaith Thampi, Legislative Associate, The American Legion; Mr. Bob "Shoebob" Carey, Executive Vice President, Advocacy and Strategy, The Independence Fund; Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Mr. Sherman Gillums, Jr., Veteran Advocate.

SITE VISITS

Alton and St. Louis, MO. From May 24–May 27, 2021, Ranking Member Bost performed oversight visits of the Alton National Cemetery, Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, National Cemetery Administration National Training Center, St. Louis Regional Office, National Personnel Records Center, and the John Cochran VA Medical Center. This visit was supported by minority staff members.

Arlington National Cemetery, VA. On June 22, 2021, Ranking Member Bost performed an oversight visit of Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of the trip was to tour the cemetery and learn more about the Southern Expansion and revised eligibility criteria. This visit was supported by minority staff members.

Columbia, MO. From July 14–15, 2021, Ranking Member Bost visited with minority staff the Veterans United Production Facility and Welcome Home homeless shelter in Columbia, MO. The purpose of this trip was to review one of the top full-service home loan providers and provide oversight over the Welcome Home homeless shelter, where issues of GPD and COVID–19 impacts were discussed. This visit was supported by minority staff members.

Los Angeles, CA. From September 15–16, 2021, Chairman Takano and Ranking Member Bost traveled on an oversight visit to the Greater Los Angelos VA Medical Center and Riverside National Cemetery. Majority and minority staff supported this trip. Issues covered during this visit include: new programs and initiatives regarding the caregiver and community care offices, homeless

resources on campus, COVID–19 impacts, the performance of the Cerner Electronic Health Record Modernization, and transition.

Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. From November 19–November 27, 2021, Chairman Takano led a bipartisan congressional delegation (CODEL) on a trip to Okinawa, Japan; Seoul, South Korea; and Taipei, Taiwan. In addition to Chairman Takano, Representative Colin Allred (TX–32), Representative Elissa Slotkin (MI–8), Representative Sara Jacobs (CA–53), and Representative Nancy Mace (SC–1) participated in the CODEL. Five majority staff and two minority staff accompanied the delegation. The purpose of the trip was to conduct meetings with military personnel and overseas veterans, conduct oversight, and hold bilateral discussions with international leaders on matters that are critical to our nation's security and global cooperation. These issues include delivery of health care for our military personnel and veterans and updates on implementation of National Defense Authorization Act provisions that relate to quality military transitions. In addition, the members of the delegation spent Thursday, November 25, 2021, serving Thanksgiving Day lunch to deployed military personnel at Camp Humphreys, South Korea.

Arlington National Cemetery, VA. On June 22, 2021, Ranking Member Bost, Representative Jim Banks (IN–3), Representative Chip Roy (TX–21), Representative Matthew M. Rosendale (MT), and Representative Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (AS) visited Arlington National Cemetery. Minority staff supported this oversight visit. The purpose of the trip was to tour the cemetery and learn more about the Southern Expansion, revised eligibility criteria, wait times for burial, and progress improving the conditions of the horses in the caisson.

Tunisia, Lithuania, Poland, Finland, and England. From May 21–May 30, 2022, Chairman Takano led a bipartisan congressional delegation (CODEL) on a trip to Tunis, Tunisia; Vilnius, Lithuania; Warsaw, Poland; Helsinki, Finland; and London, England. In addition to Chairman Takano, Representative Ed Case (HI–1), Representative Brenda Lawrence (MI–14), and Representative Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (AS) participated in the CODEL. Four majority staff and one minority staff accompanied the delegation. The purpose of the trip was to conduct meetings the military personnel and overseas veterans, conduct oversight, and hold bilateral discussions with governments and international officials on matters critical to national security and global cooperation. These issues include OCONUS cemeteries and memorials honoring segregated and diverse members of the U.S. Armed Services, the delivery of healthcare for military personnel and veterans, the status of refugees, and the delivery of benefits related to overseas GI bill usage.

Richland, Walla Walla, and Seattle, WA. From July 5–8, 2022, Ranking Member Bost traveled on an oversight visit to the Richland, Washington VA community-based outpatient clinic, the Jonathan M. Wainwright VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington, and the VA Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle, Washington. Minority staff supported this trip. The purpose of this visit was to observe the operational impact of the Cerner electronic health record system (Richland and Walla Walla) and preparations to implement the system (Seattle).

Iowa, Nebraska, and Ohio. From August 28–September 2, 2022, Ranking Member Bost traveled on an oversight trip to VA facilities in Davenport, IA; Iowa City, IA; Cedar Rapids, IA; Omaha, NE; and Columbus, OH. During this trip, the Ranking Member visited VA medical facilities and conducted listening sessions to hear firsthand the experiences and concerns of veterans and VA staff each of those three states. He also visited the Rock Island Arsenal and University of Iowa's Virtual Soldier Program in Iowa; homeless veteran housing units, a veteran owned small business, an Army Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) site, and the Omaha National Cemetery in Nebraska; and the National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Ohio.

Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq, and Lebanon. From November 19–28, 2022, Chairman Takano led a congressional delegation (CODEL) on a trip to Rome, Italy; Nettuno, Italy; Amman, Jordan; Kuwait City, Kuwait; Baghdad, Iraq; Erbil, Iraq; and Beruit, Lebanon. In addition to Chairman Takano, Representative Colin Allred (TX–32), Representative Elissa Slotkin (MI–8), and Katie Porter (CA–45) participated in the CODEL. Five majority staff and two minority staff accompanied the delegation. The purpose of the trip was to hold bilateral discussions with U.S. and foreign government officials on matters critical to national security, global cooperation and servicemember issues within the jurisdiction of the committee. Stops explored the oversight of cemeteries and memorials, delivery of health care for military personnel and veterans, updates on implementation of NDAA provisions that relate to military transitions, and delivery of benefits related to overseas GI Bill usage.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

ELAINE G. LURIA, Virginia, *Chair*
TROY NEHLS, Texas, *Ranking Member*

ELISSA SLOTKIN, Michigan
DAVID TRONE, Maryland
MARCY KAPTUR, Ohio
DR. RAUL RUIZ, California
MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS, Iowa
JAKE ELLZEY, Texas
CONNIE CONWAY, California

GARY WOODWARD, *Majority Staff Director*
KATHERINE SMITH, *Minority Staff Director*

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative hearing on H.R. 2568; H.R. 2724; H.R. 2800; H.R. 2827; H.R. 3402; H.R. 3793; H.R. 4191; H.R. 4601; H.R. 4633; H.R. 4772; a discussion draft, to improve coordination between the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration with respect to claims for compensation arising from military sexual trauma, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, the Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act; a discussion draft, the Justice for ALS Veterans Act of 2021; and a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the manner in which the Board of Veterans' Appeals conducts hearings regarding claims involving military sexual trauma and to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve the language and practices of the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such claims"

On Wednesday, October 20, 2021, the Subcommittee met in an open session to conduct a legislative hearing to discuss the above legislation. Many of the bills impact survivors benefits and burial, while others cover VA life insurance benefits, military sexual trauma claims processing and the fiduciary program.

There were three witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Representative Elaine G. Luria (Virginia), Representative Troy E. Nehls (Texas), Representative Mike Levin (California), Representative Frank Mrvan (Indiana), Representative Scott Perry (Pennsylvania), Representative Gerald Connolly (Virginia), Representative Cheri Bustos (Illinois), Representative Jahana Hayes (Connecticut), Representative Antonio Delgado (New York), Representative Elissa Slotkin (Michigan), Representative Michael Waltz (Florida), Representative Chip Roy (Texas), and Representative David J. Trone (Maryland).

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Dr. Nilijah Carter, Executive Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Cheryl Rawls, Executive Director, Office of Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Marsden McGuire, Deputy Chief Consultant, Mental Health Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the third panel: Mr. Jeremy Villanueva, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Cory Titus, Deputy Director, National Legislative Service, Military Officer Association of America; Ms. BriGette McCoy, CEO and Founder, Women Veteran Social Justice Network; and Mr. Derek Fronabarger, Government Affairs Director, Wounded Warrior Project.

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing: H.R. 1182; H.R. 1183; H.R. 5916; H.R. 6131; H.R. 6064; H.R. 6165; a discussion draft, to amend 38 USC § 103(d) to add a new paragraph that would allow surviving spouses who remarry after 10 consecutive years of receipt, or entitlement to, benefits relating to Dependency Indemnity Compensation to retain 50 percent of the amount payable under such provision and those who remarry after 20 years to retain the full amount; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to update certain terminology related to marriage under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; a discussion draft, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to create fact sheets, for veterans and for survivors of veterans, that compare benefits and compensation, to such individuals under laws administered by the Secretary, to monthly insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act, and supplemental security income under title XVI of the Social Security Act; a discussion draft, the Modernizing Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Benefit Questionnaires Act; a discussion draft, the Department of Veterans Affairs Principles of Benefits Automation Act; a discussion draft, the Expediting Temporary Ratings for Veterans Act; and a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve outreach by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to dependents of deceased veterans, and for other purposes"

On Tuesday, March 29, 2022, the Subcommittee met in an open session to conduct a legislative hearing to discuss several bills. Many of the bills impact survivors' benefits and deported veterans while others increase accessibility, automation, and financial information.

There were three witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Representative Mark Takano (California), Representative Mike Bost (Illinois), Representative Elaine G. Luria (Virginia), Representative Troy E. Nehls (Texas), Representative Pete Aguilar (California), Representative Matthew M. Rosendale (Montana), Representative Joe Neguse (Colorado), Representative Marie Newman (Illinois), and Representative Frank J. Mrvan (Indiana).

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Brianne Ogilvie, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Ray Tellez, Executive Director, Office of Business Integration, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the third panel: Mr. Mario Marquez, Director of National Security, The American Legion; Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Ms. Candace Wheeler, Director, Policy, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors.

Oversight Hearing—"VA Compensation and Pension Exams During the COVID–19 Pandemic: A Path Forward"

On March 23, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session via Zoom to conduct a fully virtual oversight hearing to examine the work that lies ahead for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to take control of the compensation and pension (C&P) exam inventory and bring the inventory down to pre-COVID–19 pandemic levels. This included discussing the need for a detailed plan from the Veteran Benefits Administration (VBA) to show the Committee its goals for reducing the C&P exam inventory, VBA's plan to close out Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommendations to provide better oversight of its C&P contractor vendors, and a discussion about lessons learned and how VA plans to address future spikes in C&P exam inventory.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Mr. David McLenachen, Executive Director, Medical Disability Examination Office, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Toby Matthew, Chief Officer, Office of Disability and Medical Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Brent Arronte, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Elizabeth Curda, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Samantha Kubek, Coordinating Attorney, Veterans Initiative, Legal Health Division, New York Legal Assistance Group; Mr. Shane Liermann, Deputy National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; and Mr. Ryan Gallucci, Director, National Veterans Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Oversight Hearing—"VA Appeals Program: Examining the State of Modernization Efforts"

On Tuesday, July 13, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session via Zoom to conduct a fully virtual oversight hearing to examine the state of the appeals program at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), particularly the organizational structure and performance of the Board of Veterans' Appeals. The Subcommittee intended to examine three parts of the appeals program:

1. Workload and Performance, which includes managing the remaining legacy appeals inventory while ensuring processing under the new appeals system under the Appeals Modernization Act is timely and provides quality decisions for veterans.
2. Human Capital, which includes maintaining a fully trained workforce that is diverse and equipped to meet the needs of veterans.
3. Technology, which includes investments in IT systems to ensure proper tracking of workload and delivery of services such as online submission of appeals, hearing support, and access for representatives.

The hearing meant to assess VA's progress in these three areas and determine what additional support may be needed from Con-

gress to ensure successful resolution of the legacy appeals inventory and maintenance of timely processing in the new appeals system.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Ms. Cheryl Mason, Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Ronald Burke, Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Brad Houston, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of Information and Technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Elizabeth Curda, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, U.S. Government Accountability Office. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Shane Liermann, Deputy National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Gillian Slovick, 2nd Vice President of AFGE Local 17, American Federation of Government Employees; and Ms. Diane Boyd Ruber, Executive Director, National Organization of Veterans' Advocates.

Joint Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Supporting Survivors: Assessing VA's Military Sexual Trauma Programs"

On Wednesday, November 17, 2021, the Subcommittees on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and Health met in an open session to conduct an oversight hearing to explore Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) policies related to the provision of services, programs, and benefits for survivors of military sexual trauma (MST) and the extent to which the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ensures MST survivors are connected to available services while filing a claim based on the impact of their MST as well as examine concerns on training, coordination, and processing of MST claims. This discussion was an opportunity for the Department to update the Committee on its progress toward addressing recommendations from the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG), and to discuss any challenges VA faces in this area.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Ms. Beth Murphy, Executive Director of Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Cheryl Rawls, Executive Director, Office of Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Marsden McGuire, Deputy Chief Consultant, Mental Health Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and the Honorable Michael J. Missal, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Shane Liermann, Deputy National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Kristina Keenan, Associate Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Tracy Farrell, Vice President of Connection and Wellness, Wounded Warrior Project; and Ms. Katie Anita Purswell, Director, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division, The American Legion.

Oversight Hearing—"Honoring our Promise: Reviewing the Effectiveness of Services for Survivors and Dependents"

On Tuesday, February 8, 2022, the Subcommittee met in an open session to conduct an oversight hearing reviewing the effectiveness of services for veterans' survivors and dependents. The Subcommittee investigated ways to increase outreach and education efforts, the quality of services provided, and areas for improvement in the delivery of care and benefits to this cohort. The hearing took an in depth look at the experience of survivors and dependents, challenges to unique populations such as caregivers and members of the LGBTQIA+ population, COVID's continued impact on service delivery, and discussed ways improve and increase collaboration between administrations.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Ms. Cheryl Rawls, Executive Director, Office of Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Nilijah Carter, Executive Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Kelly Hruska, Government Relations Director, National Military Family Association; Mrs. Ashlynne Haycock-Lohmann, Deputy Director, Policy, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors; Mr. Mark Belinsky, Director, Currently Serving/Retired Affairs, Military Officers Association of America; and Ms. Pamela Laurion, Member-at-Large, Gold Star Wives of America.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"At What Cost?—Ensuring Quality Representation in the Veteran Benefit Claims Process"

On April 27, 2022, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct a joint oversight hearing with the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee entitled, "At What Cost—Ensuring Quality Representation in the Veteran Benefit Claims Process." The hearing examined administration and oversight of the VA Accreditation, Discipline, & Fees Program for agents, attorneys, and Veterans Service Organization (VSO) representatives who assist veterans in applying for VA benefits; systems in place for receiving, investigating, and adjudicating complaints about unaccredited claims representatives; and efforts to make veterans more aware of the resources that are available to help them navigate the VA benefit claims process.

There were two witness panels: The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Mr. Richard Hipolit, Deputy General Counsel for Veterans Programs, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Christa Shriber, Deputy Chief Counsel, Benefits Law Group, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witness testified on the second panel: Mr. Ryan Gallucci, Director, National Veterans Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Mr. Marty Callaghan, Deputy Director of Benefits & Claims Services, The American Legion; Ms. Diane Boyd Rauber, Executive Director, National Organization of Veterans' Advocates; Lieutenant Colonel William Taylor, U.S. Army (Ret.), Co-

Founder & Chief Operating Officer, Veterans Guardian VA Claim Consulting, LLC; and Mr. Evan Seamone, Legal Manager/General Counsel, Trajector, Inc.

SITE VISITS

Arlington National Cemetery, VA. On September 3, 2021, majority and minority staff conducted a site visit to Arlington National Cemetery. Staff met with ANC leadership and took a tour of the facilities, including the Chaplains Memorial. The visit followed discussions with VSOs about concerns regarding changes to eligibility criteria as well as efforts from advocates to allow recent names to be added to the Chaplains Memorial. ANC leadership spoke at large about why they felt these new restrictions kept ANC thriving and relevant and spoke strongly against the option of a "second Arlington."

Baltimore, MD. On October 15, 2021, majority and minority staff conducted a site visit to the Baltimore National Veterans Cemetery and the Baltimore VA Regional Office. Staff met with Mr. Elberto Scott, Management Analyst, Baltimore National Cemetery, who discussed the history, workload, significance to the community, satellite Cemeteries, and improvement projects. Staff were then given a tour of the facilities including the gravesite of Ms. Deloris Louise Ruddock, newly implemented committal shelter, Section O (History), and Columbarium Wall/Section Q (Cremated Interments). Following lunch, Staff toured the RO facility and met with RO leadership and held virtual sessions with non-supervisory RO claims processors, MST coordinators, coaches, and the local union representative.

Winston-Salem, NC. On November 8–9, 2021, minority staff conducted a site visit to the Winston-Salem Regional Benefits Office. The purpose of this travel was to conduct oversight of the Regional Office.

Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. On March 15, 2022, majority and minority HVAC, SVAC, & CRS staff conducted a sight visit to Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of the travel was to visit the DoD-related components in the provision of military honors for burials.

Quantico, VA. On May 5, 2022, minority staff conducted an oversight visit to Marine Corps Base Quantico. The purpose of this trip was to gain an understanding of the Wounded Warrior Regiment. Additionally, minority staff conducted an oversight visit of the Quantico National Cemetery to learn more about utilization of burial benefits in the capital region.

Riverside National Cemetery, California. On August 18, 2022, majority staff visited Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California. This visit was conducted to tour the largest cemetery operated by VA for a broad overview of cemetery operations, gain insight into expansion plans, learn of cemetery needs, and view the many memorials that are hosted at the facility. Further discussion was held with cemetery staff about the relationship with the University of California-Riverside, which had a contract with the NCA Veterans Legacy Project between 2018 and 2020. A conversation was also held regarding a Congressional inquiry forwarded to the

Committee about accessibility concerns relating to the immediate exterior and the entrance of the cemetery.

Houston, TX. On September 19–20, 2022, minority staff attended the VBA Senior leadership symposium in Houston, TX. The purpose of this travel was to attend the conference with VBA and RO leadership to learn more about the implementation of the PACT Act.

Boise, ID. On October 26–28, minority staff conducted an oversight visit to the Boise Regional Office and the Boise VAMC. The purpose of this trip was to conduct oversight of the Boise Regional Office and learn more about the progress of the automation pilot.

Baltimore, MD. On Tuesday, December 13–14, 2022, minority staff attended the VBA PACT Act Offsite in Baltimore, MD. The purpose of this trip was to learn about the implementation of the PACT Act and the training of claims processors.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

MIKE LEVIN, California, *Chairman*
BARRY MOORE, Alabama, *Ranking Member*

CHRIS PAPPAS, New Hampshire
SHEILA CHERFILUS MCCORMICK, Florida
DAVID TRONE, Maryland
RUBEN GALLEGO, Arizona
TRACEY MANN, Kansas
NANCY MACE, South Carolina
MADISON CAWTHORN, North Carolina

JUSTIN VOGT, *Majority Staff Director*
JON CLARK, *Minority Staff Director*

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative hearing on H.R. 147; H.R. 2195; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the accuracy of mortgage underwriting for home loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs by ensuring that energy costs are included in the underwriting process, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a study on the effect of financial and credit counseling for homeless veterans and veterans experiencing housing instability; a discussion draft, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a Native VetSuccess on Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for extensions of time limitations for use of entitlement under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make available to veterans certain additional information about postsecondary educational institutions, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to students who are rounding out during their final semester, term, or academic period, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, the Affordable Housing for Homeless Veterans Act of 2021; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learning that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purpose of Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program; a discussion draft, to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for the high technology pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; a discussion draft, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement a modern information technology service to process claims for educational assistance under chapters 30, 33, 35, and 36 of title 38, United States Code; a discussion draft, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training to carry out a pilot program on short-term fellowships programs for veterans; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Economic Oppor-

tunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the time period for eligibility under Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs."

On Wednesday, April 14, 2021, via the Zoom meeting platform, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a legislative hearing on the above bills. There were three witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Representative Ruben Gallego (Arizona), Representative Tracey Mann (Kansas), Representative Mikie Sherrill (New Jersey), Representative Nancy Mace (South Carolina), Representative Madison Cawthorn (North Carolina), Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks (IA–2), and Representative Brad R. Wenstrup (Ohio).

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Kaitlynne Hetrick, Associate, Government Affairs, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Mr. Justin Hauschild, Legal Fellow, Student Veterans of America; Ms. Maureen Elias, Associate Legislative Director of Government Relations, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Ms. Ashlynne Haycock, Deputy Director, Policy and Legislation, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors; and Mr. Matthew Doyle, Deputy Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The following witnesses testified on the third panel: Mr. Mike Freuh, Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. James Ruhlman, Deputy Director for Program Management, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration; and Mr. Michael W. Fisher, MSW, Chief Readjustment Counseling Officer, Readjustment Counseling Service, 10RCS, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to pay to certain veterans, who receive certain educational assistance furnished by the Secretary, a weekly stipend for child care services; H.R. 5025, to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase and extend the authorization of appropriations for homeless veterans reintegration programs; a discussion draft, to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to establish protections under that Act for a member of the Armed Forces who leaves a course of education, paid for with certain educational assistance, to perform certain service; a discussion draft, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report on the Warrior Training Advancement Course of the Veterans Benefit Administration; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for a certain work-study allowance paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who pursue programs of rehabilitation, education, or training on at least a half-time basis; a discussion draft regarding homeless grants; a discussion draft, to direct the Sec-

retary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on grants for care for elderly homeless veterans, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to extend the delimiting period for certain individuals to use educational assistance benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs; a discussion draft, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on substance use and alcohol use disorder recovery for homeless veterans, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide technical assistance to recipients of grants for supportive services for very low-income families in permanent housing and comprehensive service programs, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to adjust the rate of per diem payments provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grantees that provide services to homeless veterans; a discussion draft, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the shallow subsidy program under the supportive services for veteran families program, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve public transportation services for veterans; a discussion draft, the Col. James Floyd Turner IV USMC GI Bill Transfer Act of 2021; H.R. 4874, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the use of educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for flight training programs; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the use of entitlement to educational assistance under the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program for secondary school education; a discussion draft, the Fry Scholarship Enhancement Act of 2021.''

On Tuesday, September 21, 2021, via the Zoom meeting platform, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a legislative hearing on the above bills. There were three witness panels. The following witnesses testified for the first panel: Representative Anthony Brown (Maryland), Representative Joe Neguse (Colorado), Representative Marilyn Strickland (Washington), Representative Nikema Williams (Georgia), Representative Gus Bilirakis (Florida), and Representative Madison Cawthorn (North Carolina).

The following witnesses testified for the second panel: Mr. Ron Burke, Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Veteran Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Monica Diaz, Executive Director, Homeless Programs Office, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified for the the third panel: Mr. Anthony (Tony) Lewis, Associate National Legislative Director; Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Kathryn Monet, Chief Executive Officer, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans; Ms. Lauren Augustine, Vice President of Government Affairs, Student Veterans of America; Ms. Ashlynne Haycock, Deputy Director, Policy and Legislation; Tragedy Assistance Program For Survivors, Mr. David Proferes, Education and Credentialing Policy Associate, The American Legion; and Mr. Lawrence Guzman Romo, National Commander, American GI Forum.

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to permanently authorize the use of certain funds to improve flexibility in the provision of assistance to homeless veterans, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, the Veteran Health Transition Training Act; a discussion draft, to make permanent certain educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of changes to courses of education by reason of emergency situations, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that a member of the Armed Forces, granted a general discharge under honorable conditions on the sole basis that such member failed to obey a lawful order to receive a vaccine for COVID–19, is eligible for certain educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, and the United States Housing Act of 1937, to make certain improvements to the supported housing program for veterans commonly known as "HUD–VASH;" a discussion draft, the VA Home Loan Transparency and Consumer Protection Act of 2022; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the eligibility of veterans who may receive self-employment assistance under the Veteran Readiness and Employment program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; a discussion draft, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update the payment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to allow for electronic fund transfer of educational assistance, administered by the Secretary, to a foreign institution of higher education; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for requirements relating to the approval and disapproval of courses of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, the Quality Education for Veterans Act of 2022; H.R. 6458; H.R. 6604."

On March 16, 2022, the Subcommittee held a hybrid legislative hearing on the above bills. There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Ms. Brianne Ogilvie, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Vet-

erans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Ricardo Da Silva, Program Integration Officer, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Monica Diaz, Executive Director, Homeless Programs Office, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. David Case, Deputy Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Steve Berg, Vice President for Programs and Policy, National Alliance to End Homelessness; Mr. Justin Hauschild, Policy Counsel, Student Veterans of America; Mr. Shane Liermann, Deputy National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; and Mr. Dedrick Asante-Muhammad, Chief of Membership, Policy, and Equity, National Community Reinvestment Coalition.

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on H.R. 3950; H.R. 6124; a discussion draft, the Tiny Homes for Homeless Veterans Act; a discussion draft, to amend Title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Office of Food Insecurity, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to amend Title 38, United States Code, to extend certain Department of Veterans Affairs programs for homeless veterans; a discussion draft, to amend Title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for, and extend authorization of, certain programs for homeless veterans; a discussion draft, to amend Title 38, United States Code, to extend authority for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing; a discussion draft, to amend Title 38, United States Code, to extend Department of Veterans Affairs assistance for individuals residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member; a discussion draft, the Emergency Relief for Servicemembers Act; a discussion draft, the Building Credit Access for Veterans Act of 2022; a discussion draft, to expand and improve the Department of Veterans Affairs COVID–19 veteran rapid retraining assistance programs and high technology pilot programs, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, the Empowering Veterans Against Cyberthreats Act of 2022; H.R. 2650; H.R. 4702; a discussion draft, the Improving the VA Home Loan Benefit Act of 2022; a discussion draft, to amend Title 38, United States Code, to provide for the eligibility of educational assistance under the Department of Veterans Affairs Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of certain individuals who receive sole survivorship discharges, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with an entity to carry out a pilot program under which such entity shall connect homeless veterans to a network of supportive services, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to amend Title 38, United States Code, to provide for the approval of certain study-abroad programs for

purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes"

On Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 10:00 AM, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hybrid legislative hearing on the above bills. There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Ms. Mary Glenn, Acting Executive Director, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Monica Diaz, Executive Director, Homeless Programs, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. John E. Bell, III, Acting Executive Director, Loan Guaranty Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Kaitlynne Hetrick, Government Affairs Associate, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Mr. Josh Protas, Vice President for Public Policy, MAZON; Ms. Jennifer Akin, Senior Director of Policy and Social Impact Research, Blue Star Families; Ms. Kathryn Monet, Chief Executive Officer, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans; and Mr. Mark A. Jones, Vice Chairman, Mortgage Bankers Association.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Military Transition During the COVID–19 Pandemic"

On Wednesday May 12, 2021, via the Zoom meeting platform, the Subcommittee held an oversight hearing to identify existing and emerging issues servicemembers face during their transition to civilian life that have been exacerbated by the COVID–19 pandemic.

There were two witness panels for this hearing. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Ms. Vivian Richards, Program Manager, Minority Veterans of America; Dr. J, Michael Haynie, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Innovations, Institute for Veteran and Military Families, Syracuse University; Ms. Jennifer Dane, Executive Director, Modern Military Association of America; Mr. Matt Stevens, Chief Executive Officer; The Honor Foundation; Ms. Carolyn Lee, Executive Director, The Manufacturing Institute; and Patrick Murray, Legislative Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. William Mansell, Director, Defense Support Services, U.S. Department of Defense; Mr. James Rodriguez, Acting Assistant Secretary, Veterans' Employment & Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor; Ms. Cheryl Rawls, Executive Director for Outreach, Transition and Economic Development Service (OTED), Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Lawrencia Pierce, Deputy Director, Outreach, Transition and Economic Development Service (OTED), Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Joshua Lashbrook, Assistant Director of Operations Support and Digital GI Bill Program Lead, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department on Veterans Affairs.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Veteran Employment Amid the COVID–19 Pandemic"

On Wednesday May 26, 2021, via the Zoom meeting platform, the Subcommittee held an oversight hearing, which identified the challenges the COVID–19 pandemic presented to the veteran workforce and how Congress can respond.

There were two witness panels for this hearing. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Mr. Chris Thorne, Co-Chair, Military Affairs Advisory Council, North San Diego Business Chamber; Mr. Jeremy Villanueva, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Thomas Winkel, Director, Arizona Coalition for Military Families; and Mr. Eric Eversole, President, Hiring our Heroes, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Ronald Burke, Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Oversight, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Cheryl Rawls, Executive Director, Outreach, Transition and Economic Development Service (OTED), Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Charmain Bogue, Executive Director, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Veteran Homelessness in the Wake of COVID–19"

On June 16, 2021, via the Zoom meeting platform, the Subcommittee held an oversight hearing, which reviewed the impact of the COVID–19 pandemic on homeless veterans, along with implementation of relief legislation for veterans passed in the 116th and 117th Congresses.

There were two witness panels for this hearing. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Ms. Kathryn Monet, Chief Executive Officer, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans; Ms. Akilah Templeton, President and Chief Executive Officer, Veterans Village of San Diego; and Ms. Lula Skowronek, Director, Priority Veteran.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Dr. Keith Harris, National Director of Clinical Operations, Homeless Programs Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Anthony Love, Interim Executive Director, United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; and Mr. Richard Cho, Senior Advisor for Housing and Services, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Isakson-Roe at Six Months: An Update on Implementation of Education Improvements"

On July 20, 2021, the Subcommittee held a hybrid oversight hearing, which reviewed updates from the Department regarding the status of implementation of the education provisions signed into law at the end of the 116th Congress, the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020.

There was one witness panel for this hearing. The following witness testified on this panel: Ms. Charmain Bogue, Executive Director, Education Services, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"A Whole of Government Approach in Support of Servicewomen"

On October 26, 2021, the Subcommittee on conducted a hybrid oversight hearing, which reviewed interagency coordination for servicewomen, such as the current Transition Assistance Program (TAP). During the hearing, the Committee also reviewed where the system is failing to address the transition needs of servicewomen and where it can enhance the collaboration of benefits and programs to improve the transition to civilian life.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Mr. William Mansell, Director, Defense Support Service Center, U.S. Department of Defense; Ms. Margarita Devlin, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training Services, U.S. Department of Labor; Ms. Lourdes Tiglao, Director of Center for Women Veterans, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Lawrencia Pierce, Deputy Director, Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development (OTED), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: The second panel consisted of Ms. Jodie M. Grenier, Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for Women Warriors; Ms. Phyllis Abbott, Founder and Executive Director, Lady Veterans Connect; Captain Lory Manning, USN (Retired), Director of Government Relations, Service Women's Action Network; and Ms. Ginger Miller, President and CEO, Women Veterans Interactive.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Removing Barriers to Veteran Home Ownership"

On December 8, 2021, the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity conducted a hybrid oversight hearing, which examined persistent and emerging issues veterans face when utilizing the VA Home Loan Guaranty and areas of potential improvement for the program.

There were two witness panels. The following witness testified on the first panel: Mr. John Bell, Acting Executive Director, Loan Guaranty Service, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Emily DeVito, Associate Director, National Legislative Services, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Mr. Joseph C. Sharpe, Director, National Employment and Education Division, The American Legion; Ms. Leslie Rouda Smith, President, National Association of Realtors; and Mr. Brock Cooper, General Counsel, Veterans United.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Securing High-Demand Jobs for Veterans"

On February 2, 2022, the Subcommittee held a hybrid oversight hearing, which studied the outcomes of VET TEC and VRRAP to date and explored the future of veteran education and training programs for high-demand jobs.

There were two witness panels. The following witness testified on the first panel: Mr. Ricardo Da Silva, Program Integration Officer, Education Service, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Alicia Boddy, Chief Development and Operations Officer, Code Platoon; Mr. Joseph Sharpe, Director of Veterans Education and Employment, The American Legion; and Mr. Bill Blackstone, Executive Vice President, Galvanize.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Review President Biden's Strategy to Reduce Veteran Suicide by Addressing Economic Risk Factors"

On June 15, 2022, the Subcommittee held a hybrid oversight hearing, which examined President Biden's national strategy "Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide: Advancing a Comprehensive, Cross-Sector, Evidence-Informed Approach" and included discussions related to how federal, public, and private entities can collaborate to promote economic well-being to reduce veteran suicide.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Dr. Susan L. Black, DSW, LCSW–C, BCD, VBA National Suicide Prevention Officer, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Matthew A. Miller, PhD, MPH, Executive Director, Suicide Prevention and Acting Executive Director, PREVENTS, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Christopher Jones, PharmD, DrPH, MPH, CAPT, US Public Health Service, Acting Director of National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Ms. Peggy Bailey, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and Mr. James Rodriguez, Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training Services, U.S. Department of Labor.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Dr. Laura Otis-Miles, Senior Vice President, Mental Health Systems/Courage to Call; Mr. Nick Armstrong, Managing Director, Research and Data, Syracuse University Institute for Military and Veteran Families; Ms. Joy Ilem, National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Betsey Mercado, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Objective Zero; Ms. Judy Clausen, Deputy Chair of the Legislative Advocacy Committee, National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium; and Ms. Emily DeVito, Associate Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Ending Veteran Hunger: Examining the Impact of COVID–19 on Food Insecurity"

On July 11, 2022, in Oceanside Room at the Veterans Association of North County (VANC), 1617 Mission Avenue, Oceanside CA 92058, the Subcommittee conducted a field hearing. Access to nutritious, sustainable food resources has a major impact on health, well-being, and quality of life. A recent U.S. Department of Agriculture study found that from 2015 to 2019, 11.1% of working-age veterans lived in a food insecure household and 5.3% lived in a household with very low food security. While VA and USDA have made progress in identifying veterans experiencing food insecurity and connecting them with resources like the Supplemental Nutri-

tion Assistance Program (SNAP), the COVID–19 pandemic added new layers of financial and physical hardship to veteran families. This hearing examined trends in the prevalence of veteran hunger and how government agencies and non-profits adapted their service and resource delivery amid the pandemic.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Dr. Christine Going, EdD, MPA, RD, FACHE, National Food Security Program Coordinator (Detailed), Nutrition & Food Services Program Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Daniel Santibáñez, Chief, Nutrition and Food Services, VA San Diego Healthcare System; Mr. Matthew Rabbitt, Research Economist, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; Mr. Rick Wanne, Director of Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency, County of San Diego; and Mr. Wilfred Quintong, Director of the Office of Military & Veterans Affairs, County of San Diego.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Anahid Brakke, CEO & President, SD Hunger Coalition; Mr. Casey Castillo, Interim CEO, Jacobs/Cushman San Diego Food Bank; Ms. Karla Samayoa, Director of Safety Net Services, 211 San Diego; and Mr. Anthony Stewart, CEO, US4Warriors.

Joint Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Modernizing Veteran Education in the Shadow of COVID–19"

On July 20, 2022, Subcommittees on Economic Opportunity and Technology Modernization conducted a joint hybrid oversight hearing to request updates on how pieces of legislation such as the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, the CARES Act, and the American Rescue Plan Act have improved student veteran benefit delivery through the Digital GI Bill and broader GI Bill modernization efforts. This included the status of spending plans for any remaining funds from the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan Act, an update on the Digital GI Bill contract with Accenture Federal Services, and additional measures the Department is taking to streamline benefit delivery for survivors and dependents under Chapter 35 benefits.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Mr. Ronald S. Burke Jr. Deputy Under Secretary, Office of Policy and Oversight, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Ricardo Da Silva, Program Integration Officer, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Dan McCune, Executive Director, Software Product Management, Office of Information Technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Rob Orifici, Benefits and Memorial Services Portfolio Director, Office of Information Technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Will Hubbard, Vice President for Veterans and Military Policy, Veterans Education Success; Mr. Joseph Sharpe, Director of Veterans Employment and Education, The American Legion; Ms. Rosezza Miller, Senior Director of Financial Aid Advising, Broward College;

and Mr. Justin Monk, Director of Policy, Student Veterans of America.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Ensuring a Successful Military to Civilian Transition for Servicemembers in Southern Alabama"

On July 25, 2022, in the building 4 Multipurpose Room at Enterprise State Community College, 600 Plaza Drive, Enterprise, AL 36331, the Subcommittee conducted a field hearing, which evaluated the challenges servicemembers face when transitioning in the Southern Alabama region, and examined how non-DOD organizations, including VSOs and local government, in Southern Alabama help fill the gaps in resources not provided in TAP for transitioning servicemembers.

There was one witness panel. The following witnesses testified on this panel: Mr. Kerry Cornelius, Jobs for Veterans State Grant (JVSG) Supervisor, Alabama Department of Labor; Ms. Tammy Johnson, Legislative Chairman, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Alabama; and Mr. Tom Ferguson, Commander, Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 9.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Veteran Readiness and Employment: Is VA Succeeding?"

On September 19, 2022, the Subcommittee held a hybrid oversight hearing which reviewed the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) program. This program is designed to provide veterans who have service-connected or work-limiting disabilities with education, job training, and the resources they need to live independently. VR&E Counselors and Employment Coordinators support veterans through comprehensive programming, including rehabilitation planning, vocational assessment, and employment services. There are five VR&E tracks a veteran may elect to participate in based on their needs and goals: Reemployment; Rapid Access to Employment; Self Employment; Employment Through Long-term Services; and Independent Living Services.

However, staffing vacancies at VR&E offices such as Integrated Disability Evaluation System and Veteran Success on Campus sites impede veteran access to the program. This hearing examined veteran satisfaction with VR&E, participation, and success after graduating from the program, and recommendations for how VA can improve in these areas. This hearing also examined VA's missteps and challenges in efforts to implement a digital case management system to better track participant outcomes.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Mr. Nick Pamperin, Executive Director, Veteran Readiness and Employment, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Matthew Manning, Supervisory Contract Specialist, Office of Mission Support, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director for Government Relations, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Mr. Shane Liermann, Deputy Na-

tional Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; and Mr. Jeremy Villanueva, Government Affairs Associate Director, Wounded Warrior Project.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Transitional Housing Reform: Examining the Future of the VA Grant and Per Diem Program"

On December 6, 2022, the Subcommittee held a hybrid oversight hearing, which reviewed the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Grant and Per Diem (GPD) program. This program funds community organizations that provide transitional housing and supportive services for veterans at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The purpose of GPD is two-fold: to fund capital grants to organizations to build or remodel housing facilities and to reimburse providers for the daily cost of care for veterans residing in transitional housing through per diem payments. The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, removed barriers to the use of capital grants for organizations seeking to de-congregate their facilities to make them safer for veterans during the public health emergency. Isakson-Roe also temporarily authorized increases in the per diem rate to cover the high cost of care associated with providing services in transitional housing settings, a request from providers that predated the pandemic. As the end of the public health emergency looms, VA and providers are reporting continued high costs, low censuses, and empty beds in GPD facilities, due in part to veterans desiring individual, de-congregated units and fewer rules and restrictions for their participation in housing programs. This hearing examined the future of GPD beyond the COVID–19 pandemic to ensure the program is meeting the needs of veterans and their families on their journey to permanent housing.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Ms. Monica Diaz, Executive Director, Homeless Programs Office, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Chelsea Watson, National Director, Grant and Per Diem Program, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Kathryn Monet, Chief Executive Officer, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans; Mr. Steve Berg, Vice President for Programs and Policy, National Alliance to End Homelessness; Ms. Kaitlynne Yancy, Associate Director of Government Affairs, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Ms. Hanan Scrapper, Regional Director, PATH San Diego, People Assisting the Homeless (PATH); and Mr. Kenneth G. Hodder, National Commander, the Salvation Army.

ROUNDTABLES

Subcommittee Roundtable—"Making Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Work for More Veterans"

On March 17, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to hold a roundtable via Zoom. The roundtable examined complications some veterans have found learning about VR&E , enrolling in the program, and communicating with their counselors, among

other issues. Presenting from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Readiness and Employment Program was Mr. Bruce Voigt, Acting Executive Director; Ms. Kim Lloyd, Acting Deputy Director; Ms. Kristine Kuehnle, Acting Assistant Director for Program/Policy; and Mr. Kevin Scott, Assistant Director for Operations. In addition, in attendance were Mr. Jeremy Villanueva, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Morgan Brown, National Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Mr. Justin Hauschild, Legal Fellow, Student Veterans of America; Ms. Tanya Ang, Vice President, Veterans Education Success; Dr. Jan Del Signore, President, National Association of Veterans' Program Administrators; and Mr. Derek Fronabarger, Director of Government Affairs, Wounded Warrior Project.

Subcommittee Roundtable—"Making Every Day in Uniform Count: A Discussion of Benefits Parity for Our Guard and Reservists"

On December 13, 2022, the Subcommittee conducted a public roundtable in Cannon 121 and via the Zoom virtual meeting platform. The roundtable served as an opportunity to receive the concerns and comments of stakeholders regarding benefits parity for Guard and Reservists. Participants included Mr. Matt Schwartzman, Director, Legislation and Military Policy Reserve Organization of America; Mr. Matthew Krenz, Executive Director, Enlisted Associated of the National Guard of the United States; Mr. Daniel Elkins, National Guard Green Beret, Special Operations Association of America; Mr. Donald Franklin, Legislative Director, The Veterans Education Project; Mr. Justin Hauschild, Policy Counsel, Student Veterans of America; Mr. John Kamin, Legislative Associate and Grassroots Coordinator, The American Legion; Mr. Patrick Murray, Director of National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Danielle Martin, Former Nebraska National Guard; Ms. Priya Ghosh Ahola, Deputy Legislative Director and General Counsel, National Guard Association of the United States; Mr. Mike Hadley, Director, National Guard Association of the United States; Mr. Tom Porter, Executive Vice President, Government Affairs, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Mr. Cory Titus, Director of Veteran Benefits and Guard/Reserve Affairs, Military Officers Association of America; Ms. Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Mr. Will Hubbard, Vice President for Veterans and Military Policy, Veterans Education Success; Ms. Tami Thacker (U.S. Navy Veteran), Veteran Services Coordinator, University of California, Riverside; Greg Sanchez (U.S. Navy Veteran), Chancellor's Research Fellow, University of California, Riverside; Ms. Angeliz Vargas Casillas, California Air National Guard (Cyber Warfare Operator), University of California, Riverside PhD Candidate (Mathematics); Mr. Brian Haynes, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, University of California, Riverside; Ms. Kathy Eiler, Director of Federal Relations, University of California, Riverside; and Theo Lawson, Legislative Director, Fleet Reserve Association.

SITE VISITS

Venice, Italy. On August 10, 2021, majority Subcommittee staff, accompanied by Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee staff and Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs majority and minority staff, participated in a staff delegation site visit to the U.S. Army Garrison-Italy in Vicenza, Italy. During the site visit, Subcommittee staff participated in a mission brief provided by the Army Garrison leadership, including Major General Andrew M. Rohling, Commanding General, Southern European Task Force—Africa, and Colonel Matthew Gomlak, Garrison Commander. Following the briefing, staff observed a Transition Assistance Program (TAP) classroom session and toured the TAP facilities, meeting with instructors and program fellows. Staff also received a TAP overview from the Garrison Commander and Mr. Poulin, the Transition Service Manager, who led the Garrison's TAP. During this presentation, staff queried TAP instructors and program leads on how they measure core goals of TAP, implement National Defense Authorization Act mandates, and plans for modernizing and improving TAP instruction and effectiveness. Later that day, staff participated in a hosted lunch, which allowed for staff to meet and discuss the TAP features, strengths, and opportunities for improvement, among other topics, with soldiers from co-located Army units.

On August 11, 2021, the staff delegation conducted a site visit to Aviano Air Base in Aviano, Italy. Pursuing similar information as the prior day's site visit, staff participated in a mission brief that was led by Brigadier General Jason Bailey, Commander, 31st Fighter Wing, and Colonel Vincent O'Connor, 31st Fighter Wing Vice Commander. Staff conducted a tour of the base TAP facilities, including dedicated classrooms and offices in the Airman and Family Readiness Center, interacted with airmen over lunch, and attended a TAP demonstration. During the demonstration, staff were able to hear from current servicemembers participating in TAP and veterans who had recently completed the program. Staff were able to facilitate a discussion with these servicemembers and TAP instructors and program leads to identify, among other things, strategies for improving TAP effectiveness, including participation and completion rate, and tracking critical data to measure program metrics.

Buffalo & Syracuse, NY. From November 9–11, 2021, majority Subcommittee staff, participated in visits the Department of Veterans' Affairs Buffalo Regional Office and Syracuse University Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF).

For the visit to the VA Buffalo Regional Office, majority and and minority staff spent the day with the Regional Office Director, and RO office staff to discuss staffing, hiring, training, COVID repurposing, the impact of COVID on the facility, and internal employee/client surveys. In addition, Subcommittee staff discussed Congressional established programs such as VET TEC, Edith Nourse STEM scholarship, VRRAP, and the status of funding of those programs and veteran participation. Finally, Subcommittee staff discussed expiring provisions for student veterans.

Following the visit in Buffalo, the majority staff visited Syracuse University to tour and understand the innovative services and re-

search being delivered at Syracuse University and more broadly in the community. Our team toured the National Veterans Resource Center (NVRC), participate in Veterans' Day programming, and meet with key stakeholders to gain an in-depth understanding of how the innovations at Syracuse can be applied to federal policy-making. The Committee staff then joined the staff at the IVMF for Veterans' Day events consisting of keynote remarks by the Chancelor of Syracuse, along with student veterans at the University.

Joint Base Charleston, SC. From March 21–23, 2022, majority and minority staff participated in a visit to Joint Base Charleston to gather information on the transition process for service members and learn about the difficulties for service members and families transitioning out of the military from overseas posts. Since the changes made in the FY2019 NDAA, DoD has worked with each independent service branch to improve TAP and meet the requirements set in statute. This trip provided the Subcommittee staff the opportunity to review all service branches transition programs at Joint Base Charleston.

Cleveland, OH. On May 5, 2022, majority and minority staff visited with the Department of Veterans' Affairs Cleveland Regional Office where the Committee staff met with RO Leadership, local AFGE Union representatives, the Assistant Director of Loan Administration along with supporting staff, Veterans Readiness and Employment leadership and counselors, concluding with a tour of the facility.

Los Angeles, CA. From August 15–18, 2022, majority and minority staff, accompanied by members of the Oversight Subcommittee, and majority and minority staff from the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee participated in the following visits: Department of Veterans Affairs West LA Campus, homelessness providers in the Los Angeles community, and the University of California Los Angeles. On this trip, staff performed oversight on VA homeless programs in the Los Angeles area, as well as GI Bill and other VA Educational Assistance programs.

Muskogee, OK. From October 24–26, 2022, majority and minority staff, accompanied by members of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee majority and minority staff participated in an oversight visit to the Muskogee GI Bill processing and call center. On this trip, staff performed oversight on Digital GI Bill implementation and educations claim processing.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

JULIA BROWNLEY, California, *Chairwoman*
JACK BERGMAN, Michigan, *Ranking Member*

CONOR LAMB, Pennsylvania
MIKE LEVIN, California
FRANK MRVAN, Indiana
GREGORIO KILILI SABLAN, Northern Mariana Islands
LAUREN UNDERWOOD, Illinois
COLIN ALLRED, Illinois
LOIS FRANKEL, Florida
AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN, American Samoa
CHIP ROY, Texas
MATT ROSENDALE, Montana
MARIANNETTE MILLER MEEKS, Iowa
JAKE ELLZEY, Texas

ELIZABETH MACKENZIE, *Majority Staff Director*
CHRISTINE HILL, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on H.R. 234; H.R. 344; H.R. 958; H.R. 1448; H.R. 1510; a discussion draft, the DOULA for VA Act; a discussion draft, the Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021; a discussion draft, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs; and H.R. 2093"

On April 15, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct a legislative hearing on the above bills. There were three witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Representative Mark Takano (California), Representative Lauren Underwood (Illinois), Representative Steve Stivers (Ohio), Representative Hakeem Jeffries (New York), Representative Cynthia Axne (Iowa), and Representative Brenda Lawrence (Michigan). The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Marquis Barefield, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Brian Dempsey, Government Affairs Director, Wounded Warrior Project; and Lindsay Church, Executive Director/Co-Founder, Minority Veterans of America. The following witnesses testified on the third panel: Dr. Clifford A. Smith, Director, Analytics, Innovations, and Collaborations, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Amanda Johnson, Director, Women's Reproductive Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on: H.R. 913; H.R. 2587; H.R. 2775; H.R. 2797; H.R. 3027; H.R. 3452; H.R. 3674; H.R. 3693; H.R. 4233; a discussion draft, the VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act, or VIPER Act; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify and improve the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; and a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to require an independent assessment of health care delivery systems and management processes of the Department of Veterans Affairs be conducted once every 10 years, and for other purposes"

On July 14, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct a legislative hearing regarding the above bills. There were three witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Representative Mark Takano (California), Representative Chris Pappas (New Hampshire), Representative Conor Lamb (Pennsylvania), Representative Jason Crow (Colorado), Representative Lauren Underwood (Illinois), and Representative Gregory F. Murphy (North Carolina).

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. David Perry, Chief Officer, Workforce Management and Consulting, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Mike Fisher, MSW, Chief Officer, Readjustment Counseling Service, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the third

panel: Mr. Marquis Barefield, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Andy Blevins, Operations and Policy Director, Minority Veterans of America; and Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on: H.R. 2819; H.R. 2916; H.R. 4575; H.R. 4794; H.R. 5029; H.R. 5073; H.R. 5317; a discussion draft, the Veterans Census-Enabled National Treatment Equitable Resources Supplement (Vet CENTERS) for Mental Health Act of 2021; a discussion draft, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish seasonal influenza vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include veterans of World War II; a discussion draft, the Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse and Physician Assistant Retention and Income Security Enhancement (VA Nurse and Physician Assistant RAISE) Act; a discussion draft, the Veterans Justice Outreach Improvement Act; a discussion draft, the VITAL Assessment Act"

On October 13, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct a legislative hearing regarding the above bills. There were three witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Representative Mark Takano (California), Representative Scott H. Peters (California), Representative David Rouzer (North Carolina), Representative Antonio Delgado (New York), Representative Jake Ellzey (Texas), Representative Josh Harder (California), Representative Lauren Underwood (Illinois), Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks (Iowa), and Representative Mikie Sherrill (New Jersey).

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Dr. David Carroll, Executive Director, Office of Mental Health & Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Robert Sherrier, Executive Director, National Teleradiology Program, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Karen M. Ott, DNP, RN, Director for Policy, Legislation, and Professional Standards Office of Nursing Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Michael Fisher, Chief Readjustment Counseling Officer, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the third panel: Mr. Marquis Barefield, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Dr. Kaki York-Ward, President, Association of VA Psychologist Leaders.

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on: H.R. 4993; H.R. 5738; H.R. 5754; H.R. 5819; H.R. 5941; H.R. 6647, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; H.R. 6823; and a discussion draft, the Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act"

On March 16, 2022, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct a legislative hearing regarding the above bills. There were three witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (Washington), Representative Lisa McClain (Michigan), Representative Tom O'Halleran (Arizona), Representative Clay Higgins (Louisiana), and Representative Debbie Dingell (Michigan). The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Dr. Julianne Flynn, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Community Care, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Scotte Hartronft, Executive Director, Office of Geriatrics & Extended Care, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the third panel: Mr. Anthony Lewis, Associate National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Mr. Steve Schwab, Chief Executive Officer, The Elizabeth Dole Foundation; and Mr. Roscoe Butler, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on: H.R. 291; H.R. 345; H.R. 1216; H.R. 1957; H.R. 6273; and H.R. 7589"

On June 22, 2022, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct a legislative hearing regarding the above bills. There were three witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Representative Mark Takano (California) and Representative Mike Bost (Illinois). The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Dr. Matt Miller, Executive Director for Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Amanda Johnson, Director for Women's Reproductive Health, Office of Women's Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Garth Miller, Executive Director for Member Services, Health Eligibility Center, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the third panel: Ms. Joy Ilem, National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Mx. Lindsay Church, Executive Director, Minority Veterans of America; and Ms. Barb Collura, President and CEO, RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Beyond Deborah Sampson: Improving Healthcare for America's Women Veterans in the 117th Congress"

On March 18, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to examine the work that lies ahead for VA, VSOs, and Congress to meet the needs of America's women veterans: past, present, and future. These groups discussed the need for legislation that did not become law in the 116th Congress, such as legislation focused on reproductive health and residential treatment programs. As women veterans are more likely to be people of color or members of the LGBTQ community than their male veteran counterparts, this hearing also examined health equity and disparities within the women veteran population.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Dr. Kameron Matthews, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Patricia Hayes, Chief Officer for Women's Health Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Lelia Jackson, Senior Strategist, Assault and Harassment Prevention Office, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Ashleigh A. Byrnes, Deputy National Communications Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Patricia Jackson-Kelley (Lt. Col., U.S. Army, Retired), President, National Association of Black Military Women; Ms. Jennifer Silva, Chief Program Officer, Wounded Warrior Project; Lindsay Church, Executive Director, Minority Veterans of America; and Ms. Stephanie Gattas, Chief Executive Officer, The Pink Berets.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Aging in Place: Examining Veterans" Access to Home and Community Based Services"

On July 27, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to examine the work that lies ahead for the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to meet the needs of the largest cohort of veterans, those over the age of 65, and address their number one priority—the wish to age at home. Since 2009, VHA has made incremental efforts to refocus funds and resources into its Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) to ensure veterans are empowered to delay, if not avoid, entry into institutional care settings, by receiving appropriate support safely at home. The Subcommittee evaluated the status of VHA's efforts to rebalance resources from institutional care to HCBS, what barriers to exist to expand certain HBCS programs (such as the Veteran Directed Care Program) to all VA Medical Centers, and what lessons from the pandemic will need to be incorporated as VHA prepares to care for a majority geriatric patient population.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Dr. Scotte Hartronft, Executive Director, Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Catherine Kelso,

Deputy Executive Director, Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Rashi Romanoff, Vice President for Program and Partnerships, Elizabeth Dole Foundation; and Mr. Roscoe Butler, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Lessons Learned? Building a Culture of Patient Safety Within the Veterans Health Administration"

On October 27, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to examine oversight and accountability of Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical facilities. This hearing provided an opportunity to evaluate the extent to which VHA and its Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN) are ensuring their medical facilities maintain a culture of patient safety. Specifically, the Subcommittee examined whether VHA is closely monitoring the findings of VA Office of Inspector General, the U.S. Government Accountability Office, and other external reviewers; how VHA and its VISNs oversee the field's response to findings from external reviews; and whether VHA is tracking patterns of deficiencies and looking for opportunities to apply lessons learned across all VHA medical facilities.

There was one witness panel. The following witnesses testified: Dr. Julie Kroviak, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Sharon Silas, Director, Health Care Team, U.S. Government Accountability Office; Ms. Renee Oshinski, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Gerard Cox, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Quality and Patient Safety, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Teresa Boyd, Network Director, VA Northwest Health Network (VISN 20), Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Joint Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Supporting Survivors: Assessing VA's Military Sexual Trauma Programs"

On November 17, 2021, the Subcommittees on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs and Health met in an open session to conduct an oversight hearing to explore Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) policies related to the provision of services, programs, and benefits for survivors of military sexual trauma (MST) and the extent to which the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) ensures MST survivors are connected to available services while filing a claim based on the impact of their MST as well as examine concerns on training, coordination, and processing of MST claims. This discussion was an opportunity for the Department to update the Committee on its progress toward addressing recommendations from the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG), and to discuss any challenges VA faces in this area.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Ms. Beth Murphy, Executive Director of Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Cheryl Rawls, Executive Director, Office of Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Marsden McGuire, Deputy Chief Consultant, Mental Health Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and the Honorable Michael J. Missal, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Shane Liermann, Deputy National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Kristina Keenan, Associate Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Tracy Farrell, Vice President of Connection and Wellness, Wounded Warrior Project; and Ms. Katie Anita Purswell, Director, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division, The American Legion.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Close to Home: Supporting Vet Centers in Meeting the Needs of Veterans and Miliary Personnel"

On February 3, 2022, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to examine VA's Vet Centers, formally known as a program of the Readjustment Counseling Service (RCS). This hearing provided an opportunity to evaluate Vet Centers' capacity, staffing, resources, training, delivery of counseling services, and coordination with VA medical centers and central office.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Mr. Michael Fisher, Chief Officer, Readjustment Counseling Service, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. David Carroll, Executive Director, Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Alfred Ozanian, Deputy Chief Officer, Readjustment Counseling Service, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Gillian Hinton McDonald, Director, Ventura Vet Center, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Julie Kroviak, Deputy Assistant Inspector General, Office of Healthcare Inspections, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Sharon Silas, Director, Health Care Team U.S. Government Accountability Office. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Dr. Thomas Hall, Vietnam Veterans of America; Mr. Patrick Murray, Legislative Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Ms. René Campos, Senior Director, Government Relations for Veterans—Wounded Warrior Care, Military Officers Association of America.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Innovative Care Delivery at VA: Partnering to Improve Infrastructure and Operational Efficiency"

On May 12, 2022, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to examine innovative approaches to addressing physical infrastructure needs and clinical workforce short-

ages at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Through existing authorities, VA has been able to accept real property donations like those facilitated by the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed (CHIP–IN) for Veterans program, through strategic partnerships like the Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC) in North Chicago, and through sharing agreements with other federal providers. The Subcommittee examined lessons learned from past projects and best practices that VA can apply to future projects, given that many of the Department's recommendations for the forthcoming Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission highlighted VA's interest in these and other types of partnerships. The hearing provided an opportunity for VA to elaborate on its vision, and for the Subcommittee to get a better understanding of the potential risks and benefits of these partnerships.

There was one witness panel, and the following witnesses testified: Dr. Michael D. Brennan, Executive Director, Office of Construction and Facility Management, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Robert P. McDivitt, Director, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 23, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Catina Latham, Acting Director, Physical Infrastructure Team, U.S. Government Accountability Office; and Mr. Patrick Murray, Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Examining VA Community Care Access, Utilization, and Expenditures"

On July 14, 2022, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to examine trends in the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) expenditures on community care, veterans' access to community care, and veterans' utilization of community care. This hearing also provided the Subcommittee an opportunity to examine VA's progress in carrying out an organizational realignment related to community care—through the creation of the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) new Office of Integrated Veteran Care and the transfer of community care revenue operations to VHA's Office of Finance.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Dr. Miguel LaPuz, Acting Deputy Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Laura Duke, Chief Financial Officer, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Julianne Flynn, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Community Care, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Lisa Arfons, Senior Medical Advisor, Office of Integrated Veteran Care, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Eric Frieman, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Forge Health; and Mr. Eric Golnick, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Forge VFR.

SITE VISITS

Washington, D.C. On February 3, 2021, majority Committee staff conducted a site visit at the Washington, D.C. Veterans Affairs

Medical Center (VAMC) to assess ongoing efforts to address sexual harassment and assault on VA medical facility campuses. While on site, majority Committee staff toured key areas of the VAMC and discussed observations with VAMC officials. In addition, majority Committee staff discussed with Washington, D.C., VAMC officials their experiences thus far with administering COVID–19 vaccines to enrolled veteran patients and to employees of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Loma Linda, California. On April 9, 2022, majority Committee staff conducted a site visit at the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System (VALLHCS) to observe a day-long job fair where VA human resources specialists were on hand for immediate hires, onboarding, interviews, and résumé drop-offs. Majority staff returned on April 11, 2022, to meet with Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 22 and VALLHCS leadership to discuss how they are addressing recruitment and retention challenges and the extent to which existing information technology systems support effective documentation of onboarding and other personnel actions. In addition, majority staff toured the Loma Linda VA Medical Center, the Redlands Ambulatory Care Center, and the Rancho Cucamonga CBOC, and met with various clinical leaders to discuss delivery of care to veterans within their catchment area.

Bluemont, Virginia. On April 19, 2022, minority staff visited the Boulder Crest Retreat (BCR) in Virginia to evaluate the effectiveness of their approach to treating PTSD, combat stress, and opioid addiction. BCR is a wellness organization that develops and promotes treatment based on "post-traumatic growth." According to BCR, they enabled participants to significantly reduce or completely eliminate their use of prescription medicines." BCR, located in Virginia and Arizona, is open free-of-charge to combat veterans (defined as those who deployed to a war zone) from any generation/conflict; active-duty servicemembers; members of the National Guard and Reserve; first responders; and, family members of any of the above.

Dallas, Texas. On May 11, 2022, majority Committee staff were invited to participate in a daylong meeting convened by the Bob Woodruff Foundation on the use of psychedelics in treating veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and treatment-resistant depression.

Charleston, South Carolina; Savannah, Georgia. From May 31–June 3, 2022, minority staff conducted a visit to the Charleston VAMC, Savannah and North Charleston CBOCs, the Savannah Vet Center, and local homeless providers. As one of the lead sites for VHA's High Reliability Organization (HRO) initiative, the Ralph H. Johnson VAMC was one of the first to achieve HRO recognition. Staff met with leadership and staff to learn more about how an HRO improves quality of care. The visit also included review of caregiver, long term care, emergency, and mental health programs. This Healthcare system includes 3 VA clinics and a homeless referral center within a 15-mile radius which were also included. The facility also serves as the parent VAMC serving a large rural catchment area and this was an opportunity to evaluate community care at the Savannah CBOC. The Savannah Vet Center was selected as a childcare pilot site, so it provided a good opportunity

for oversite of that and vet center operations in an area where a high active duty, guard and reserve population resides.

Miami, Florida. From May 31–June 2, 2022, Ranking Member Bost and minority staff conducted oversight in the Miami region. During this trip, the Ranking Member visited the Miami VA Medical Center, the Miami Vet Center, and the Key Largo VA Clinic. He also visited the Homestead Air Reserve base and conducted two separate listening sessions with local veterans to hear their experiences and concerns firsthand.

San Antonio, Texas. On June 1, 2022, majority Committee staff were invited to speak at the annual conference of the Association of VA Psychology Leaders about pending and recently enacted legislation and congressional oversight related to VA mental health and veteran suicide prevention.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Dallas, Texas; Temple, Texas; Austin, Texas; and Houston, Texas. From August 8 through August 11, 2022, Health Subcommittee Chairwoman Julia Brownley and majority Committee staff conducted site visits at VA medical centers (VAMC) located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Dallas, Texas; Temple, Texas; and Houston, Texas. These site visits provided an opportunity for the Committee to gather information about the provision of reproductive healthcare to women veterans and VA employees in two states where access to abortion has become extremely restricted under state law. At each VAMC, Chairwoman Brownley and majority Committee staff met with executive leadership, VA Police, Women Veterans Program Managers, clinical directors of women's health, Maternity Care Coordinators, community care staff responsible for coordinating obstetric and gynecological care, pharmacy staff, and employee union representatives. In addition, Chairwoman Brownley and majority Committee staff held evening listening sessions with veterans, healthcare providers, active duty servicemembers, and veterans advocates in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Dallas, Texas; Austin, Texas; and Houston, Texas. This trip helped inform the committee's continued oversight and legislative efforts related to veterans' reproductive healthcare.

Atlanta, Georgia. On August 24–26, 2022, minority staff conducted an oversight visit of the Atlanta Healthcare Medical system. The purpose was to meet with leadership and staff teams to learn more about how the Medical Center and the VISN are addressing recent IG findings and recommendations. The site visit also included review of caregiver and long-term care programs, emergency care, homeless, and mental health programs. As this Healthcare system has had challenges in the past with access and timely referrals to community care the visit included discussions with the Office of Community Care and review of CLC demolition. Visit included travel to a standalone regional CLC and well as a visit to the Atlanta Vet Center.

Atlanta, Georgia. On October 4–6, 2022, minority staff in an annual Warrior Community Integration Symposium. The purpose of the symposium is to connect, educate, advocate, and collaborate to empower veterans across and within their communities. The three-day agenda included numerous sessions focusing on veteran issues and solutions driven by potential community partnerships with VA, non-profits, and other support entities. Staff to engaged with

groups on innovative ways to empower veterans, proactively improve their wellbeing, and prevent veteran suicide and participated on a Hill-focused panel.

New Orleans, Louisiana. On October 18, 2022, majority and minority staff conducted a one-day site visit at the VA Southeast Louisiana Health Care System in New Orleans, Louisiana. They visit focused on various aspects of clinical operations, including women's health, inpatient care, emergency care; staffing challenges faced by the facility; quality of care and implementation of VHA's High Reliability Organization initiative; and the role of the facility in 4th Mission readiness. They also met with local union representatives.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

CHRIS PAPPAS, New Hampshire, *Chairman*
TRACEY MANN, Kansas, *Ranking Member*

CONOR LAMB, Pennsylvania
ELAINE LURIA, Virginia
LAUREN UNDERWOOD, Illinois [2]
AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN, American Samoa
JACK BERGMAN, Michigan

PETER TYLER, *Majority Staff Director*
JON CLARK, *Minority Staff Director*

[2] On September 22, 2022, Representative Gregorio Sablan of the Northern Mariana Islands resigned his position on the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations and Representative Lauren Underwood of Illinois joined the Subcommittee.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on: H.R. 711; H.R. 1948; H.R. 2082; H.R. 2428; H.R. 2429; a discussion Draft, the Strengthening VA Whistleblower Protection Act of 2021; a discussion draft, the VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021; a discussion draft, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain information publicly available on one internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs; a discussion draft, the Improving VA Accountability to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act of 2021; a discussion draft, the VA Beneficiary Debt Collection Improvement Act; a discussion draft, VA Equal Employment Counseling Modernization Act; a discussion draft, the Strengthening VA Background Checks Act; a discussion draft, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; a discussion draft, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes"

On April 21, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct a legislative hearing regarding the above bills. There was one witness panel. The following witnesses testified: Mr. Jeffrey R. Mayo, Acting Assistant Secretary, Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security, and Preparedness (HRA/OSP), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Hansel Cordeiro, Acting Assistant Secretary, Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection (OAWP), U.S. Department of Veterans; Mr. Ed Murray, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Office of Management (OM), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Jessica Bonjorni, Chief, Human Capital Management (HCM), Veterans Health Administration (VHA), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and Mr. Christopher Wilber, Counsel to the Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on: H.R. 1596; H.R. 5170; H.R. 2806; H.R. 4845; H.R. 2385; H.R. 3930; a discussion draft, the VA Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Data Improvement Act; a discussion draft, the Every Veteran Counts Act"

On September 22, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct a legislative hearing regarding the above bills. There was one witness panel.

The following witnesses testified: Mr. Harvey Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resolution Management, Diversity, and Inclusion, Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs; Mr. Kshemendra Paul, Executive Director for Data Governance and Analytics and Chief Data Officer, Office of Enterprise Integration, U.S. Department of Vet-

erans Affairs; Ms. Jennifer Dane, Chief Executive officer and Executive Director, Modern Military Association of America; Lindsay Church, Executive Director and Co-founder, Minority Veterans of America; Mr. Marquis Barefield, Assistant National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; and Mr. Peter Perkowski, Clinical Instructor, Veterans Legal Clinic, WilmerHale Legal Service Center of Harvard Law School.

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on: H.R. 6052; a discussion draft, the Faster Payments to Veterans' Survivors Act; a discussion draft, the Improving Oversight of the Veterans Community Care Providers Act; a discussion draft, the VA Preventing Duplicate Payments Act; a discussion draft, the Improving VA Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Act; a discussion draft, the Improving VA Workforce Diversity Through Minority-Serving Institutions Act; H.R. 5776; H.R. 6638; a discussion draft, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out an information technology system to manage supply chains for medical facilities of Department of Veterans Affairs"

On March 30, 2022, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct a legislative hearing regarding the above bills. There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Mr. Edward Murray, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management & Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Office of Management, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Harvey Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Dan Keenaghan, Executive Director, VA Insurance Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Jennifer Adams, Executive Director, Network Management, Office of Community Care, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Maryanne Donaghy, Assistant Secretary for Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Christopher Wilber, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Management and Administration, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Seto Bagdoyan, Director of Forensic Audits and Investigative Service, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Tiffany Ellett, Health Policy Coordinator, The American Legion; Mr. Patrick Murray, Legislative Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Jennifer Dane, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Modern Military Association of America; and Lindsay Church, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Minority Veterans of America.

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Ensuring Independence and Building Trust: Considering Reforms to Whistleblower Protections at VA"

On June 16, 2022, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct a legislative hearing regarding H.R. 8510, the Strengthening

Whistleblower Protections at the Department of Veterans Affairs Act, related to the Subcommittee's oversight of whistleblower protections and procedures at VA, especially as performed by the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection (OAWP) and the Office of General Counsel (OGC).

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Ms. Maryanne T. Donaghy, Assistant Secretary, Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Catherine Mitrano, Principal Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Elizabeth McMurray, Chief of Retaliation and Disclosure Unit, Office of Special Counsel. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Jacqueline Garrick, Founder, Whistleblowers of America; Mr. Tom Devine, Legal Director, Government Accountability Project; and Ms. Joanna Derman, Policy Counsel, Project on Government Oversight.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"The Pandemic and VA's Medical Supply Chain: Evaluating the Year-Long Response and Modernization"

On March 24, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing, which examined the VA supply chain, how well it adapted during the COVID–19 pandemic, and planned improvements. There was one witness panel. The following witnesses testified: Ms. Deborah Kramer, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Support, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Andrew Centineo, Executive Director, Procurement and Logistics Office, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Phillip Christy, Deputy Executive Director for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Construction, Office of Acquisitions, Logistics, and Construction, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; The Honorable Michael Missal, Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Shelby Oakley, Director of Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Transforming the VA Workforce: Assessing Progress on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives"

On May 6, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing, which examined VA's workforce, how the workforce has changed in recent years, and progress regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. There was one witness panel.

The following witnesses testified: Mr. Harvey Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Anne-Marie Duncan, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Resolution Management, Office of Resolution Management, Diversity, and Inclusion, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Ryan Pugh Director of Workforce

Analysis, Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Sheila Elliott, President, Local 2328 at the Department of Veterans Affairs, Hampton (Virginia) VA Medical Center, American Federation of Government Employees; Mr. Victor J. LaGroon, Director and Chairman, Black Veterans Empowerment Council; and Mr. Rick C. Wade, Senior Vice President of Strategic Alliances and Outreach, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Protecting Whistleblowers and Promoting Accountability: Is VA Making Progress?"

On May 19, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing, which examined whistleblower protections and procedures at VA, with a focus on the responsibilities and performance of the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection and the Office of General Counsel.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Mr. Hansel Cordeiro, Acting Assistant Secretary for Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Christopher Wilber, Counsel to the Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Elizabeth McMurray, Chief of Retaliation and Disclosure Unit, Office of Special Counsel. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Ms. Melissa Wasser, Policy Counsel, Project on Government Oversight; Mr. Tom Devine, Legal Director, Government Accountability Project; and Ms. Jacqueline Garrick, Founder, Whistleblowers of America.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Modernizing the VA Police Force: Ensuring Accountability"

On July 13, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing, which examined the governance and accountability of the police force at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified: Mr. Lewis Ratchford, Chief Security Officer, Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security, and Preparedness (HRA/OSP), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. James Ward, Executive Director of the Law Enforcement Training Center/Chief of Police, Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security, and Preparedness (HRA/OSP), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Tammy Czarnecki, Deputy Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Troy Brown, Senior Security Officer, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Leigh Ann Searight, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Catina B. Latham, PhD, Acting Director, Physical Infrastructure Team, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Joint Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Modernizing VA's Medical Supply Chain: Progress Made?"

On November 18, 2021, the Subcommittees on Oversight and Investigations and Technology Modernization held a joint oversight hearing, which examined long-standing supply chain modernization and acquisition challenges facing VA. There was one witness panel.

The following witnesses testified: Mr. Michael D. Parrish, Principal Executive Director, Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Neil Evans, Acting Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Deborah Kramer, Acting Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Support, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Shelby Oakley, Director of Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, U.S. Government Accountability Office; and Ms. Leigh Ann Searight, Deputy Assistant Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Progress Made?—Ending Sexual Harassment at the Department of Veterans Affairs"

On July 28, 2022, the Subcommittee, partnering with the Women Veterans Task Force, conducted an oversight hearing to examine VA's progress in addressing and preventing sexual harassment.There was one witness panel. The following witnesses testified: Mr. Harvey Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Resolution Management, Diversity & Inclusion, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Perdita Johnson-Abercrombie, Director of Operations (Eastern Region), Office of Resolution Management, Diversity & Inclusion, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Thomas Costa, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Joint Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"VA Major Acquisition Failures: In Search of Solutions"

On September 20, 2022, the Subcommittees on Oversight and Investigations and Technology Modernization met in open session to conduct a joint oversight hearing. The hearing examined VA's management and oversight of several major acquisition programs, the Department's efforts to address longstanding acquisition management challenges, and implications for ongoing modernization efforts. There was one witness panel.

The following witnesses testified: Mr. Michael Parrish, Chief Acquisition Officer and Principal Executive Director, Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Angela Billups, Executive Director and Senior Procurement Executive, Office of Acquisition and Logistics, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Michele Foster, Associate Executive Director, Technology Acquisition Center, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Ms. Shelby Oakley, Director of Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

SITE VISITS

Venice Italy. On August 10, 2021, majority Subcommittee staff, accompanied by Economic Opportunity Subcommittee staff and Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs majority and minority staff, participated in a staff delegation site visit to the U.S. Army Garrison-Italy in Vicenza, Italy. During the site visit, staff participated in a mission brief provided by the Army Garrison leadership, including Major General Andrew M. Rohling, Commanding General, Southern European Task Force—Africa, and Colonel Matthew Gomlak, Garrison Commander. Following the briefing, staff observed a Transition Assistance Program (TAP) classroom session and toured the TAP facilities, meeting with instructors and program fellows. Staff also received a TAP overview from the Garrison Commander and Mr. Poulin, the Transition Service Manager, who led the Garrison's TAP. During this presentation, staff queried TAP instructors and program leads on how they measure the core goals of TAP, implement National Defense Authorization Act mandates, and on plans for modernizing and improving TAP instruction and effectiveness. Later that day, staff participated in a hosted lunch, which allowed for staff to meet and discuss the TAP features, strengths, and opportunities for improvement, among other topics, with soldiers from co-located Army units.

On August 11, 2021, the staff delegation conducted a site visit to Aviano Air Base in Aviano, Italy. Pursuing similar information as the prior day's site visit, staff participated in a mission brief that was led by Brigadier General Jason Bailey, Commander, 31st Fighter Wing, and Colonel Vincent O'Connor, 31st Fighter Wing Vice Commander. Staff conducted a tour of the base TAP facilities, including dedicated classrooms and offices in the Airman and Family Readiness Center, interacted with airmen over lunch, and attended a TAP demonstration. During the demonstration, staff were able to hear from current servicemembers participating in TAP and veterans who had recently completed the program. Staff were able to facilitate a discussion with these servicemembers, TAP instructors, and program leads, to identify, among other things, strategies for improving TAP effectiveness, and participation, and completion rates, as well as tracking critical data to measure program metrics.

Ballston, Virginia. On September 23, 2021, majority Subcommittee staff, along with minority Subcommittee and majority Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs staff, attended a Financial Management Business Transformation (FMBT) demonstration at CGI Federal's facility in Ballston, Virginia. VA awarded a systems integration contract to CGI Federal to support the FMBT program. The FMBT program seeks to modernize VA's financial and acquisition management systems to enable VA to become compliant with federal financials laws and regulations. From FY 16 to FY21, VA obligated about $734 million for the FMBT program and the Life Cycle Cost Estimates is nearly $3 billion. The first phase of this multi-year implementation began at the National Cemetery Administration and will continue at the other VA Administrations and staff offices over the next seven years.

Baltimore, Maryland. On October 15, 2021, majority Subcommittee staff, along with minority and majority staff on the Sub-

committee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, participated in a facility briefing and on-site tour of the Baltimore National Cemetery and Baltimore Regional and National Capital Region Benefits Office. At the benefits office, the delegation also conducted multiple focus groups with VA's public-facing employees, including claims processors and Military Sexual Trauma coordinators.

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. On November 10, 2021, majority Subcommittee staff, along with minority Subcommittee and majority Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs staff, participated in a site visit to a Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) distribution center in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, which VA utilizes as an interim "Regional Readiness Center." VA began its Regional Readiness Center initiative in the early months of the COVID–19 pandemic to aid in the management and resupply of personal protective equipment (PPE) across the VA enterprise. Staff had an opportunity to tour the 863,000-square-foot Chambersburg facility, which, at the time, held roughly 25,000 pallets of blood tubes, rapid COVID–19 tests, gowns, gloves, masks, and other PPE, and engaged in a question-and-answer session with representatives from the Veterans Health Administration, DLA, and the contractor operating the facility.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY MODERNIZATION

FRANK MRVAN, Indiana, *Chair*
MATT ROSENDALE, Montana, *Ranking Member*

MARK TAKANO, California
SHEILA CHERFILUS MCCORMICK, Florida
JIM BANKS, Indiana

TIMOTHY BRENNAN, *Majority Staff Director*
WILLIAM MALLISON, *Minority Staff Director*

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Subcommittee Legislative Hearing—"Legislative Hearing on H.R. 4591; a discussion draft, the Department of Veterans Affairs Demographic Data Collection Improvement Act of 2021; H.R. 2250; and H.R. 2326"

On Thursday, October 7, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct a legislative hearing regarding the above bills. There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Mr. Paul Brubaker, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Information Technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Kshemendra Paul, Executive Director/ Chief Data Officer, Office of Data Governance and Analysis, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Patrick Murray, Director, National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Jennifer Dane, Executive Director, Modern Military Association of America; Lindsay Church, Co-Founder/Executive Director, Minority Veterans of America.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Strategic Review: Evaluating Concerns About the Ongoing Implementation of the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program"

On April 14, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to perform a strategic review. On March 17, 2021, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) informed Congress that it was conducting a "strategic review of the Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) program." In the notification VA indicated, due to the review, it would delay the next scheduled EHRM go-live scheduled for April 2021 at the Wylie P. Chalmers VA Ambulatory Care Center in Columbus, Ohio.

The hearing examined VA's ongoing efforts to deploy its $16 billion EHRM program with specific emphasis on the issues and challenges identified at the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane, Washington. Topics included: VA's plans for the strategic review, the revised deployment schedule; ongoing concerns with productivity loss and staff morale; clinical workflows; and data syndication.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Dr. Carolyn Clancy, Acting Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Kameron L. Matthews, Assistant Undersecretary for Health for Clinical Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. John Windom, Executive Director, Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Laura Kroupa, Chief Medical Officer, Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. John Short, Chief Technology and Integration Officer, Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Dr. Robert Fischer, Director, Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the

second panel: Mr. Brian Sandager, General Manager, Cerner Government Services; Mr. Avi Vaswani, Vice President, Cerner Government Services; and Ms. Melissa Solito, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Cerner Government Services.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Cybersecurity and Risk Management at the VA: Addressing Ongoing Challenges and Moving Forward"

On May 20, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct a hearing to review the annual Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) audit. In this hearing, the Subcommittee assessed how VA manages its cybersecurity program, including supply chain management and controlling access to confidential data; and evaluated the safeguarding of information technology assets. The hearing also examined ongoing challenges in cybersecurity and VA's response to those challenges. There was one witness panel.

The following witnesses testified: Mr. Paul Cunningham, Deputy Assistant Secretary and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Gary Stevens, Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, Executive Director for Information Security Policy and Strategy, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Martha Orr, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Quality Performance and Risk, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Luwanda Jones, Deputy Chief Information Officer, Strategic Sourcing, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Michael Bowman, Director of IT and Security Audits Division, Office of Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Chris Jaikaran, Analyst in Cybersecurity Policy, Congressional Research Service.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Review of the FY22 Veterans Affairs Information Technology Budget"

On July 1, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to review VA's proposed technology modernization and technology sustainment funding for FY22. The hearing covered funding for Electronic Health Record Modernization as well as funding for Information Technology across the department. The hearing addressed VA's funding requests to ensure the timely delivery of IT systems that meet the needs of veterans across the country. There was one witness panel.

The following witnesses testified: Mr. Jon Rychalski, Assistant Secretary for Management and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Dominic Cussatt, Acting Assistant Secretary of Information Technology and Acting Chief Information Officer (CIO), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Michael D. Parrish, Executive Director for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Construction, and Chief Acquisition Officer (CAO), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Larry Davis, Executive Director for IT Budget and Finance, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Carol C. Harris, Director of Information Technology and Cybersecurity, U.S. Government Accountability Office.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Moving Forward: Evaluating Next Steps for the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Program"

On July 21, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to review the next steps of the EHRM program and VA's strategic review. On March 17, 2021, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) informed Congress that it was conducting a "strategic review of the Electronic Health Record Modernization program." In the notification VA indicated it would delay the next scheduled EHRM go-live scheduled for April 2021 at the Wylie P. Chalmers VA Ambulatory Care Center in Columbus, Ohio. This strategic review was expected to be complete by June 30, 2021 and has now been delayed.

The hearing examined VA's ongoing efforts to deploy its $16 billion EHRM program with specific emphasis on the issues and challenges identified at the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane, Washington. Topics included: findings from VA's strategic review; how the review will impact the deployment schedule; how changes to the program will impact program costs; and funding sources for infrastructure costs associated with upgrades necessitated by EHRM.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Dr. Carolyn Clancy, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Discovery, Education and Affiliate Networks, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Kameron L. Matthews, Assistant Undersecretary for Health for Clinical Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. David Case, Deputy Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Brian Sandager, General Manager, Cerner Government Services; and Mr. Avi Vaswani, Vice President, Cerner Government Services.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Modernizing and Securing VA's IT Infrastructure"

On September 30, 2021, the Subcommittee conducted an oversight hearing, which reviewed the progress of VA's modernization programs as well as their progress with securing IT infrastructure. The hearing covered the Infrastructure Readiness Plan (IRP), progress with current modernization programs such as FMBT and DMLLS/LogiCole, and VA's Digital Transformation Strategy. The hearing also addressed overall IT infrastructure and cybersecurity efforts that are intrinsic to all of VA's modernization efforts. There was one witness panel.

The following witnesses testified: Dr. Neil Evans, Acting Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Todd Simpson, Deputy Assistant Secretary DevSecOps, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Charles Worthington, Chief Technology Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. Paul Cunningham, Deputy Chief Information Officer and Chief Information Security Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Next Steps: Examining Plans for the Continuation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Program"

On November 2, 2021, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to review next steps of the the Department of Veterans Affairs' Electronic Health Record Modernization Program. On September 20, 2021, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) informed Congress that it was prepared to move forward with EHRM deployments in VISNs 10 and 20 in early 2022. There are many outstanding questions about how VA intends to accomplish this. This hearing examined VA's ongoing efforts to deploy its $16 billion EHRM program with specific emphasis on the issues and challenges identified during the strategic review of the program. Topics included: how VA intends to integrate findings from its strategic review; how changes will impact the deployment schedule and program costs; and how VA means to properly account for infrastructure costs associated with upgrades necessitated by EHRM.

There was one witness panel. The following witness testified: The Honorable Donald M. Remy, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Joint Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"IT Infrastructure Modernization: Addressing Ongoing Challenges and the Path Forward."

On Wednesday, February 9, 2022, the Subcommittees on Technology Modernization and Oversight & Investigations met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing. The hearing reviewed the coordination and management of VA's IT modernization programs as well as the new Chief Information Officer's vision and plans for this year. The hearing covered the coordination and top-level management of the current major IT modernization programs such as FMBT, Supply Chain Modernization, and HR Modernization. The hearing also addressed VA's plans for scheduling and integration of the major efforts to ensure interoperability and improved services to VA staff and veterans, including standardization of demographic data across VA and its IT platforms.

There was one witness panel. The following witness testified: Mr. Kurt DelBene, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Next Steps: Examining Plans for the Continuation of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Program"

On Tuesday, April 26, 2022, the Subcommittee met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to review next steps of the EHRM program after the VA Office of the Inspector General released three oversight reports highlighting ongoing concerns with the deployment of Cerner Millennium at Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane, Washington in March 2022. These reports identify that, almost a year and a half after the go-live, many

issues with medication management, referral management, and VA's issue resolution process remain unaddressed.

On April 5, 2022, members of the Subcommittee on Technology Modernization heard from leadership at Mann-Grandstaff and the Jonathan M. Wainwright VA Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington about the impacts of these issues on front-line staff. Members also heard from leadership at the Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Outpatient Clinic in Columbus, OH, about preparations for its planned April 30, 2022, go-live. The hearing afforded an opportunity to hear from VA and Cerner leadership about plans to address the unresolved issues, ameliorate staff frustration, and improve training and change management efforts for future deployment of the Cerner Millennium system at additional VA facilities.

There were two witness panels. The following witness testified on the first panel: Dr. Terry Adirim, Program Executive Director, EHRM Integration Office (EHRM IO), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Donald Pirraglia, Former Acting VHA Functional Champion, EHRM IO, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Laura Prietula, Acting Deputy Chief Information Officer, EHRM IO, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mr. David Case, Deputy Inspector General, VA Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Patrick Sargent, Senior Vice President and General Manager, Cerner Government Services; Mr. Avi Vaswani, Vice President, Cerner Government Services; Ms. Melissa Solito, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Cerner Government Services.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing—"Cyber- and Information Security at VA: Continuing Challenges"

On June 7, 2022, the Subcommittee n met in open session to conduct an oversight hearing to review the annual Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) audit, assess how the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) manages its cybersecurity program, and to evaluate the safeguarding of information technology assets. Ongoing cybersecurity challenges, especially those brought about by geopolitical events, and VA's response to those challenges were also discussed. The hearing also provided an opportunity for VA to discuss pending cybersecurity bills—including the SVAC Act (HR 7299, S3863).

There was one witness panel. The following witnesses testified: Mr. Kurt Delbene, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer (CIO), Office of Information and Technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Lynette Sherrill, Acting Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Office of Information and Technology, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Michael Bowman, Director of IT and Security Audits Division, Office of Audits and Evaluations, Office of Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Subcommittee Oversight Hearing, "Protecting Our Veterans: Patient Safety and the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program"

On Wednesday, July 27, 2022, the Subcommittee held an oversight hearing to review patient safety concerns with the EHRM program. On June 19, 2022, the Spokesman Review published an article citing an unpublished Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) report related to a previously undisclosed function of the Cerner Millennium electronic health record (EHR). The article alleged that the OIG identified multiple cases of patient harm caused by this function, labeled the "unknown queue". This revelation, in addition to the Subcommittee's ongoing concerns about patient safety related to the program, necessitated a conversation about patient safety as it relates to the system. This hearing was an opportunity to hear from VA and Oracle/Cerner leadership about plans to ensure that patient safety remains the number one priority in the deployment of EHRM program and how they intend to rectify these issues before any more veterans are harmed.

There were two witness panels. The following witnesses testified on the first panel: Dr. Terry Adirim, Program Executive Director, Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Edward Yackel, Executive Director, National Center for Patient Safety, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Robert Fischer, Medical Center Director, Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Scott Kelter, Medical Center Director, Jonathan M. Wainwright VA Medical Center, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Lynelle Johnson, Acting Chief Medical Officer, Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Mr. David Case, Deputy Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Julie Kroviak, Principal Deputy Assistant Inspector General, Office of Healthcare Inspections, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The following witnesses testified on the second panel: Mr. Mike Sicilia, Executive Vice President, Industries, Oracle; Mr. Patrick Sargent, Senior Vice President and General Manager; Oracle Cerner Government Services; Mr. David Case, Deputy Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Julie Kroviak, Principal Deputy Assistant Inspector General, Office of Healthcare Inspections, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

SITE VISITS

Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center, Spokane, WA. On October 14, 2021, Chairman Frank Mrvan held a virtual site visit with the leadership and staff at Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane, Washington. The visit was originally intended to be in person but was converted to virtual due to concerns over rising COVID–19 infection rates in the region. On October 24, 2020, VA deployed its new Cerner electronic health record at Mann-

Grandstaff and its associated clinics. The committee has heard repeatedly from leadership and staff about their concerns with the system, to include degraded performance, frequent downtimes, loss of productivity, and other technical and programmatic issues. r Mrvan heard first-hand from the leadership and staff who have been struggling under the weight of being first in the monumental change initiative.

Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center, Spokane and Jonathan M. Wainwright VA Medical Center, Walla Walla, WA. On February 22–26, 2022, minority staff conducted an oversight visit to the Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center in Spokane, Washington and the Jonathan M. Wainwright Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington to observe the facilities' readiness for the upcoming go-live of the Cerner electronic health record. During the visit, minority staff met with each facility's leadership teams, their electronic health record implementation teams, each clinical department, and their facilities and information technology staff to discuss their preparations and readiness.

Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care Clinic, Columbus, OH. On March 23–25, 2022, minority staff conducted an oversight visit to the Chalmers P. Wylie Ambulatory Care Clinic in Columbus, Ohio to observe the facility's readiness for the upcoming go-live of the Cerner electronic health record. During the visit, minority staff met with the facility's leadership team, the electronic health record implementation team, each clinical department, and the facilities and information technology staff to discuss their preparations and readiness.

Jonathan M. Wainwright VA Medical Center, Walla Walla, WA. On March 28, 2022, Majority staff conducted an oversight visit to the Walla Walla, Washington, VA Medical Center to observe the post-go-live activities following the facilities go-live of the new Cerner Electronic Health Record (EHR). This was only the second time that VA had deployed the system in eighteen months. The visit was an opportunity to observe staff engagement and morale, and to discuss issues with the system.

VA Boise Healthcare System, Boise, ID. On July 9, 2022, minority staff conducted an oversight visit to the VA Boise Healthcare System in Boise, Idaho, to observe the facility's readiness for the upcoming go-live of the Cerner electronic health record. During the visit, Minority staff met with the facility's leadership team, the electronic health record implementation team, each clinical department, and the facilities and information technology staff to discuss their preparations and readiness. Boise's go-live was later delayed.

VA Financial Services Center, Austin, TX. On August 24, 2022, minority staff conducted an oversight visit to the VA's Financial Services Center in Austin, Texas. minority staff met with each division within the organization to understand their functions and discussed key issues including financial fraud controls, the Financial Management Business Transformation program, and management of the Financial Services Center' information technology staff.

VA's Austin Information Technology Center (AITC), Austin, TX. On August 25, 2022, Majority staff traveled to VA's Austin Information Technology Center (AITC) to meet with VA staff and gather first-hand testimonial evidence and perspectives on activities of

VA. The AITC supports over 100 customer applications that provide mission-critical data for financial management, payroll, human resources, logistics, medical records, eligibility benefits and supply functions for VA customers. Committee staff evaluated the effectiveness of the facility and the activities undertaken there. Staff also discussed specific additional resources needed to maximize its effectiveness and reviewed challenges faced by VA leadership and staff.

Oregon and Washington VA Medical Centers. On October 18–22, 2022, Majority and Minority staff conducted oversight visits to the White City VA Medical Center, White City, OR; Roseburg VA Medical Center, Roseburg, OR; Portland VA Medical Center, Portland, OR; and the Vancouver VA Medical Center, Vancouver, WA. The purpose of the trip was to meet with staff and leadership at the White City and Roseburg facilities to evaluate the post-go-live state of the EHRM program and to meet with the staff and leadership at the Portland and Vancouver facilities to evaluate the state of preparations for go-live of the system. The visits were an opportunity to evaluate staff engagement and morale, as well as to hear first-hand from staff about the concerns with the Cerner Millennium product and the deployment program.

ACTIVITIES OF THE WOMEN VETERANS TASK FORCE

JULIA BROWNLEY, California, *Chairwoman*
AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN, (American Samoa), *Co-Chairwoman*

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP ON THE TASK FORCE

MARK TAKANO, California
COLIN Z. ALLRED, Texas
CONOR LAMB, Pennsylvania
MIKE LEVIN, California
CHRIS PAPPAS, New Hampshire
ELAINE G. LURIA, Virginia
FRANK MRVAN, Indiana
LOIS FRANKEL, Florida
MARCY KAPTUR, Ohio
ELISSA SLOTKIN, Michigan
RUBEN GALLEGO, Arizona
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN, (Northern Mariana Islands)
LAUREN UNDERWOOD, Illinois
SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Florida
DR. RAUL RUIZ, California
DAVID TRONE, Maryland
MIKE BOST, Illinois
JACK BERGMAN, Michigan
NANCY MACE, South Carolina
DR. MARIANETTE MILLER-MEEKS, Iowa
CONNIE CONWAY, California

ESTI LAMONACA, *Senior Policy Advisor*

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

The Women Veterans Task Force coordinated all legislative activities through the subcommittees of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES

Task Force Roundtable—"Veteran Service Organizations & Leaders of the Women Veterans Task Force"

On August 25, 2022, the Task Force held an open, virtual, roundtable with Chairwoman Brownley and Co-Chair Radewagen to introduce and hear from 24 key Veteran Service Organization representatives, 4 subject matter experts, and 3 researchers to consider and resolve women veteran challenges.

The following witnesses attended: Ms. Naomi Mathis, Associate Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director of the National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Rene Campos, Executive Director, Military Officers Association of America; Ms. Janessa Goldbeck, CEO, Vet Voice Foundation; Ms. Phyllis Wilson, President, Women in Military Service for America; Lindsay Church, Executive Director, Minority Veterans of America; Ms. Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Ms. Lorry Fenner, Director of Government Operations, Service Women's Action Network; Ms. BriGette McCoy, Founder, Women Veteran Social Justice Network; Ms. Lindsay Knapp, Executive Director, Combat Sexual Assault; Ms. Kaitlynne Yancy, Associate Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Professor Deborah Harmon-Pugh, National Chair, Women Veterans Rock; Ms. Stephanie Gattas, Founder, The Pink Berets; Ms. Jennifer Dane, CEO, Modern Military Association of America; Ms. Lauren Augustine, Vice President, Student Veterans of America; Ms. Kristina Keenan, Assistant Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. MaCherie Dunbar, Associate Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Jen Burch, Government Affairs Specialist, Wounded Warrior Project; Ms. Katie Purswell, Director for VBA, VHA, and Memorial Affairs, The American Legion; Ms. Cassandra Williamson, Board Member, Transgender American Veterans Association; Ms. Yomika Alexander, Black Women Veterans Council; Dr. Tiffany Lange, Psychologist, former VA staff; Ms. Octavia Harris, former VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans member; Ms. Jodie Grenier, Founder, Foundation for Women Warriors; Ms. Kayla Williams, Senior Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation; Ms. Lucy Del Gaudio, Women Veteran Researcher; Ms. Janet Thompson, Subject Matter Expert; and Ms. Mary Kaszynski, Subject Matter Expert.

Task Force Roundtable—"Women Wounded Warriors"

On September 13, 2022, the Task Force, led by acting Task Force Chairman Mark Takano and acting Co-Chair Nancy Mace, participated in a roundtable with over 30 women veterans from across the nation of all ages, backgrounds, and service eras during Wounded Warrior Project annual conference in D.C.

The event was led by Ms. Jen Burch and Ms. Lindsey Stanford, Government Affairs Specialists from Wounded Warrior Project, additional witness names were not collected.

Task Force Roundtable—"Military to Civilian Transition: Military Sexual Trauma Survivors"

On September 20, 2022, Chairwoman Brownley and Co-Chair Radewagen held a roundtable to gain insight on the challenges MST Survivors encounter during transition and find legislative solutions for what support and services are missing throughout transitioning. Over the years, Department of Defense (DoD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) have implemented joint initiatives focused on providing a seamless transition for MST Survivors. However, for many veterans with MST, especially women veterans, support when transitioning is insufficient or nonexistent.

The following witnesses attended: Ms. Naomi Mathis, Associate Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director of the National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Rene Campos, Executive Director, Military Officers Association of America; Ms. Jen Goodale, Director of Government Relations, Military Officers Association of America; Ms. Janessa Goldbeck, CEO, Vet Voice Foundation; Ms. Phyllis Wilson, President, Women in Military Service for America; Lindsay Church, Executive Director, Minority Veterans of America; Ms. Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Ms. Lorry Fenner, Director of Government Operations, Service Women's Action Network; Ms. Kaitlynne Yancy, Associate Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Ms. Stephanie Gattas, Founder, The Pink Berets; Ms. Jennifer Dane, CEO, Modern Military Association of America; Ms. Lauren Augustine, Vice President, Student Veterans of America; Ms. Kristina Keenan, Assistant Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. MaCherie Dunbar, Associate Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Jen Burch and Ms. Lindsey Stanford, Government Affairs Specialists, Wounded Warrior Project; Ms. Tiffany Ellett, Director, The American Legion; Dr. Tiffany Lange, Psychologist, former VA staff; Ms. Octavia Harris, former VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans member; Ms. Jodie Grenier, Founder, Foundation for Women Warriors; Ms. Lucy Del Gaudio, Women Veteran Researcher.

Task Force Roundtable—"Oversight and Legislative Priorities"

On October 6, 2022, bipartisan staff from the Women Veterans Task Force held a roundtable to receive input from 24 VSO's regarding the Task Force's oversight and legislative agenda.

The following witnesses attended: Ms. Naomi Mathis, Associate Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director of the National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Rene Campos, Executive Director, and Ms. Jen Goodale from Military Officers Association of America; Ms. Janessa Goldbeck, CEO, Vet Voice Foundation; Ms. Phyllis Wilson, President, Women in Military Service for America; Lindsay Church, Executive Director, Minority Veterans of America; Ms. Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of

America; Ms. Lorry Fenner, Director of Government Operations, Service Women's Action Network; Ms. BriGette McCoy, Founder, Women Veteran Social Justice Network; Ms. Lindsay Knapp, Executive Director, Combat Sexual Assault; Ms. Kaitlynne Yancy, Associate Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Professor Deborah Harmon-Pugh, National Chair, Women Veterans Rock; Ms. Stephanie Gattas, Founder, The Pink Berets; Ms. Jennifer Dane, CEO, Modern Military Association of America; Ms. Lauren Augustine, Vice President, Student Veterans of America; Ms. Kristina Keenan, Assistant Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. MaCherie Dunbar, Associate Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Jen Burch, Government Affairs Specialist, Wounded Warrior Project; Ms. Katie Purswell and Ms. Tiffany Ellet, Director for VBA, VHA, and Memorial Affairs, The American Legion; Ms. Cassandra Williamson, Board Member, Transgender American Veterans Association; Ms. Yomika Alexander, Black Women Veterans Council; Ms. Jodie Grenier, Founder, Foundation for Women Warriors; and Ms. Lucy Del Gaudio, Women Veteran Researcher.

Task Force Roundtable—"LGBTQ+ Veterans, their Families, and their Survivors: Accessing VA"

On October 25, 2022, Chairwoman Brownley and Co-Chair Radewagen held a virtual roundtable on LGBTQ+ veterans to identify ongoing barriers and gaps in policy that VA must address to truly provide *all* veterans, their families, and survivors access to VA benefits and services.

The following witnesses attended: Mr. Evan R. Seamone, General counsel and Legal Manager, Trajector; Mr. Keith Streicher, Black LGBTQ+ Veterans Council; Dr. Tiffany Lange, Psychologist, former VA staff; Ms. Naomi Mathis, Associate Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director of the National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Rene Campos, Executive Director, Military Officers Association of America; Lindsay Church, Executive Director, Minority Veterans of America; Ms. Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Ms. Lorry Fenner, Director of Government Operations, Service Women's Action Network; Ms. Lindsay Knapp, Executive Director, Combat Sexual Assault; Ms. Kaitlynne Yancy, Associate Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Professor Deborah Harmon-Pugh, National Chair, Women Veterans Rock; Ms. Stephanie Merlo, Staff, The Pink Berets; Ms. Jennifer Dane, CEO, Modern Military Association of America; Ms. Kristina Keenan, Assistant Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. MaCherie Dunbar, Associate Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Jen Burch, Government Affairs Specialist, Wounded Warrior Project; Ms. Katie Purswell, Director for VBA, VHA, and Memorial Affairs, The American Legion; Ms. Cassandra Williamson, Board Member, Transgender American Veterans Association; Ms. Jodie Grenier, Founder, Foundation for Women Warriors; Ms. Kayla Williams, Senior Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation; and Ms. Lucy Del Gaudio, Women Veteran Researcher.

Task Force Roundtable—"Outreach, Advocacy, and Support"

On November 4, 2022, bipartisan staff from the Women Veterans Task Force held an in-person roundtable to learn how VSOs are meeting or unable to meet the needs to veterans in communities across the nation and how Congress or VA can potentially assist.

The following witnesses attended: Ms. Naomi Mathis, Associate Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director of the National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Rene Campos, Executive Director, and Ms. Jen Goodale from Military Officers Association of America; Ms. Janessa Goldbeck, CEO, Vet Voice Foundation; Ms. Phyllis Wilson, President, Women in Military Service for America; Lindsay Church, Executive Director, Minority Veterans of America; Ms. Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Ms. Lorry Fenner, Director of Government Operations, Service Women's Action Network; Ms. BriGette McCoy, Founder, Women Veteran Social Justice Network; Ms. Lindsay Knapp, Executive Director, Combat Sexual Assault; Ms. Kaitlynne Yancy, Associate Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Professor Deborah Harmon-Pugh, National Chair, Women Veterans Rock; Ms. Stephanie Gattas, Founder, The Pink Berets; Ms. Jennifer Dane, CEO, Modern Military Association of America; Ms. Lauren Augustine, Vice President, Student Veterans of America; Ms. Kristina Keenan, Assistant Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. MaCherie Dunbar, Associate Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Jen Burch, Government Affairs Specialist, Wounded Warrior Project; Ms. Katie Purswell and Ms. Tiffany Ellet, Director for VBA, VHA, and Memorial Affairs, The American Legion; Ms. Cassandra Williamson, Board Member, Transgender American Veterans Association; Ms. Yomika Alexander, Black Women Veterans Council; Ms. Jodie Grenier, Founder, Foundation for Women Warriors; and Ms. Lucy Del Gaudio, Women Veteran Researcher.

Task Force Roundtable—"Implementation of the Deborah Sampson Act"

On November 17, 2022, Chairwoman Julia Brownley, acting Co-Chair Nancy Mace, and Representative Lois Frankel, held an in-person roundtable on the implementation of three key areas and their provisions to include childcare, sexual harassment and assault, and intimate partner violence. the Deborah Sampson Act.

The following VA witnesses attended: Ms. Lordes Tiglao, Director, Center for Women Veterans; Michael Fisher, Chief Readjustment Counseling Officer, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Leila Jackson, Director, VHA Assault and Harassment Prevention Program, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Perdita Johnson-Abercrombie, Regional Director, Office of Resolution Management Diversity & Inclusion, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Anne-Marie Duncan, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Resolution Management, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. LeAnn Bruce, National Program Manager, Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Jennifer Knetig, National Program Manager, Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program Megabus Pilot, U.S. Department of Veterans Af-

fairs; and Ms. Jennifer A. Koget, National Director Social Work, Fisher House and Family Hospitality, and Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Programs Care Management and Social Work Services, Veterans Health Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Additional witnesses include: Ms. Miriam Pierson, Yale Law School, Veterans Legal Clinic; Ms. Cindy Barnes, Director, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Ms. Naomi Mathis, Associate Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director of the National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Rene Campos, Executive Director, Military Officers Association of America; Lindsay Church, Executive Director, Minority Veterans of America; Ms. Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Ms. Lorry Fenner, Director of Government Operations, Service Women's Action Network; Ms. Kaitlynne Yancy, Associate Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Professor Deborah Harmon-Pugh, National Chair, Women Veterans Rock; Ms. Stephanie Gattas, Founder, The Pink Berets; Ms. Jennifer Dane, CEO, Modern Military Association of America; Ms. Lauren Augustine, Vice President, Student Veterans of America; Ms. Kristina Keenan, Assistant Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. MaCherie Dunbar, Associate Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Jen Burch, Government Affairs Specialist, Wounded Warrior Project; Ms. Katie Purswell and Ms. Tiffany Ellet, Director for VBA, VHA, and Memorial Affairs, The American Legion; Ms. Cassandra Williamson, Board Member, Transgender American Veterans Association; Ms. Yomika Alexander, Black Women Veterans Council; Ms. Jodie Grenier, Founder, Foundation for Women Warriors; and Ms. Lucy Del Gaudio, Women Veteran Researcher.

Task Force Roundtable—"Road Ahead: Women and LGBTQ+ Veterans"

On December 15, 2022, bipartisan Task Force staff held a virtual roundtable to discuss the future of the Women Veterans Task Force and the 118th Congress House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The following witnesses attended: Ms. Naomi Mathis, Associate Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans; Ms. Tammy Barlet, Deputy Director of the National Legislative Service, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Rene Campos, Executive Director, and Ms. Jen Goodale from Military Officers Association of America; Ms. Janessa Goldbeck, CEO, Vet Voice Foundation; Ms. Phyllis Wilson, President, Women in Military Service for America; Lindsay Church, Executive Director, Minority Veterans of America; Ms. Julie Howell, Associate Legislative Director, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Ms. Lorry Fenner, Director of Government Operations, Service Women's Action Network; Ms. BriGette McCoy, Founder, Women Veteran Social Justice Network; Ms. Lindsay Knapp, Executive Director, Combat Sexual Assault; Ms. Kaitlynne Yancy, Associate Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Professor Deborah Harmon-Pugh, National Chair, Women Veterans Rock; Ms. Stephanie Gattas, Founder, The Pink Berets; Ms. Jennifer Dane, CEO, Modern Military Association of America; Ms. Lauren Augustine, Vice President, Student Veterans of America;

Ms. Kristina Keenan, Assistant Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. MaCherie Dunbar, Associate Director, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ms. Jen Burch and Ms. Lindsey Stanford, Government Affairs Specialists, Wounded Warrior Project; Ms. Katie Purswell and Ms. Tiffany Ellet, Director for VBA, VHA, and Memorial Affairs, The American Legion; Ms. Cassandra Williamson, Board Member, Transgender American Veterans Association; Ms. Yomika Alexander, Black Women Veterans Council; Ms. Jodie Grenier, Founder, Foundation for Women Warriors; and Ms. Lucy Del Gaudio, Women Veteran Researcher.

SITE VISITS

Washington, D.C. On October 11, 2022, bipartisan staff from the Women Veterans Task Force visited the Washington, D.C. VA Medical Center, to conduct oversight on the implementation of the Deborah Sampson Act, which included a thorough tour of the entire facility and private meetings with Womens Medical Health Director, Womens Health Program Manager, Womens Health Primary Care Provider, a Patient Advocate, LGBTQ+ Care Coordinator, MST Coordinator, and Community Care staff.

Baltimore, Maryland. On November 18, 2022, bipartisan staff from the Women Veterans Task Force and majority Health Subcommittee Staff traveled to Baltimore's Regional Benefit Office Bipartisan staff also visited the Baltimore VA Medical Center to conduct oversight on the implementation of the Deborah Sampson Act, which included a thorough tour of the entire facility and private meetings with Womens Medical Health Director, Womens Health Program Manager, Womens Health Primary Care Provider, a Patient Advocate, LGBTQ+ Care Coordinator, MST Coordinator, and Community Care staff.

Richmond, Virginia. On December 9, 2022, bipartisan staff from the Women Veterans Task Force traveled to Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center to conduct oversight on the implementation of the Deborah Sampson Act, which included a thorough tour of the entire facility and private meetings with Womens Medical Health Director, Womens Health Program Manager, Womens Health Primary Care Provider, a Patient Advocate, LGBTQ+ Care Coordinator, MST Coordinator, and Community Care staff.

APPENDIX I: LEGISLATION THAT PASSED THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE THAT PASSED THE HOUSE

01/16/2021: H.R. 147—BRAVE Act, To amend title 10, United States Code, to make certain improvements to services and benefits for veterans and separating members of the Armed Forces with respect to apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes.

03/09/2021: H.R. 1276—Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize All Veterans and Every Spouse Act, To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID–19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes. *(Public law 117–4)*.

03/17/2021: H.R. 1620—Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2021, To reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994, and for other purposes.

04/20/2021: H.R. 2523—THRIVE Act, To amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to improve the COVID 19 Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance program, to make certain technical corrections to the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, and for other purposes. *(Public law 117–16)*.

05/12/2021: H.R. 958—Protecting Moms Who Served Act, To codify maternity care coordination programs at the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

05/12/2021: H.R. 1448—PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy, and to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide service dogs to veterans with mental illnesses who do not have mobility impairments. *(Public law 117–37)*.

05/17/2021: H.R. 2911—VA Transparency & Trust Act of 2021, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for obligating and expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. *(Public law 117–63)*.

05/18/2021: H.R. 240—Homeless Veterans with Children Reintegration Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Labor to prioritize the provision of services to homeless veterans with dependents in carrying out homeless veterans reintegration programs, and for other purposes.

05/18/2021: H.R. 711—West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021, To amend the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016 to authorize the use of certain funds received pursuant to leases entered into under such Act, and for other purposes. *(Public law 117–18)*.

05/18/2021: H.R. 1510—To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of cameras in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs. *(Public law 117–64)*.

05/18/2021: H.R. 2167—GI Bill National Emergency Extended Deadline Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for extensions of the time limitations for use of entitlement under De-

partment of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs by reason of school closures due to emergency and other situations, and for other purposes.

05/18/2021: H.R. 2441—Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to expand the Rural Access Network for Growth Enhancement Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study to assess certain mental health care resources of the Department of Veterans Affairs available to veterans who live in rural areas. *(Public law 117–21)*.

05/18/2021: H.R. 2494—To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes.

05/18/2021: H.R. 2704—Improving VA Accountability To Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act of 2021, To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the equal employment opportunity functions of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

05/18/2021: H.R. 2788—VA Equal Employment Opportunity Counselor Modernization Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the cap on full-time employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who provide equal employment opportunity counseling.

05/18/2021: H.R. 2878—Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program Act, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a Native VetSuccess at Tribal Colleges and Universities Pilot Program, and for other purposes.

06/15/2021: H.R. 290—To amend title 38, United States Code, to render an individual, who transfers certain educational assistance, to which the individual is entitled because of an agreement by such individual to serve in the Armed Forces, to a dependent of that individual, and who fails to complete such agreement, solely liable for the overpayment of such educational assistance.

06/15/2021: H.R. 293—VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish qualifications for the human resources positions within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

06/15/2021: H.R. 1257—Homeless Veterans CREDIT Act, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effect of financial and credit counseling for homeless veteran and veterans experiencing housing instability, and for other purposes. Passed House by voice vote.

06/15/2021: H.R. 2093—Veterans and Family Information Act, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make all fact sheets of the Department of Veterans Affairs available in English, Spanish, and Tagalog, and other commonly spoken languages, and for other purposes. *(Public law 117–62)*.

06/15/2021: H.R. 2429—VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the staffing, transparency, and accountability of the law enforcement operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

06/15/2021: H.R. 2545—To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. Passed House under suspension. *(Public law 117–96)*.

06/24/2021: H.R. 239—Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

09/20/2021: H.R. 1281—To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Gaylord, Michigan, as the Navy Corpsman Steve Andrews Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic. *(Public law 117–89)*.

09/20/2021: H.R. 3475—To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Columbus, Georgia, as the Robert S. Poydasheff VA Clinic. *(Public law 117–56)*.

09/20/2021: H.R. 4172—To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Aurora, Colorado, as the Lieutenant Colonel John W. Mosley VA Clinic. *(Public law 117–57)*.

09/20/2021: H.R. 5293—Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2021, To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes. *(Public law 117–42)*.

11/15/2021: H.R. 3665—To designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Diego, California, as the Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and to support the designation of a component of such medical center in honor of Kathleen Bruyere. *(Public law 117–98)*.

11/15/2021: H.R. 5671—To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish seasonal influenza vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes.

11/16/2021: H.R. 2433—Burn Pit Registry Enhancement Act, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take actions necessary to ensure that certain individuals may update the burn pit registry with a registered individual's cause of death, and for other purposes.

11/16/2021: H.R. 4233—Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to furnish Vet Center readjustment counseling and related mental health services to veterans and members of the Armed Forces using certain educational assistance benefits.

11/16/2021: H.R. 4591—VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act of 2021, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress periodic reports on the costs, performance metrics, and outcomes of the Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization program. *(Public law 117 154)*.

11/16/2021: H.R. 4626—VA AIM Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to require an independent assessment of health care delivery systems and management processes of the Department of Veterans Affairs be conducted once every 10 years, and for other purposes.

11/16/2021: H.R. 5516—VITAL Assessment Act, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the

Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

11/16/2021: H.R. 5603—Protections for Student Veterans Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish protections for a member of the Armed Forces who leaves a course of education, paid for with certain educational assistance, to perform certain service.

11/18/2021: H.R. 3730—To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes.

12/08/2021: H.R. 5545—REMOTE Act, To extend certain expiring provisions of law relating to benefits provided under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs during COVID–19 pandemic. *(Public law 117–76).*

01/12/2022: H.R. 1836—Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021, To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the time during which members of the Armed Forces serve on active duty for training qualifies for educational assistance under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

01/20/2022: H.R. 4673—Ensuring Veterans' Smooth Transition Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the automatic enrollment of eligible veterans in patient enrollment system of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

05/17/2022: H.R. 5754—Patient Advocate Tracker Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of veterans to electronically submit complaints about the delivery of health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs. *(Public law 117–175).*

05/17/2022: H.R. 6376—Student Veteran Work Study Modernization Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for a certain work-study allowance paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certain individuals who pursue programs of rehabilitation, education, or training on at least a half-time basis, and for other purposes.

05/17/2022: H.R. 6604—Veterans Eligible to Transfer School (VETS) Credit Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the method by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines the effects of a closure or disapproval of an educational institution on individuals who do not transfer credits from such institution.

05/17/2022: H.R. 7153—Department of Veterans Affairs Principles of Benefits Automation Act, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan to modernize the information technology systems of the Veterans Benefits Administration, and for other purposes.

05/17/2022: H.R. 7375—To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update the payment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to allow for electronic fund transfer of educational assistance, administered by the Secretary, to a foreign institution of higher education.

05/17/2022: H.R. 7500—Fiscal Year 2022 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act, To authorize major med-

ical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2022, and for other purposes. *(Public law 117–190)*.

05/18/2022: H.R. 2724—VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide for peer support specialists for claimants who are survivors of military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

05/18/2022: H.R. 5738—Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to require a lactation space in each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

05/18/2022: H.R. 6052—Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General Training Act of 2021, To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to require the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs to receive training developed by the Inspector General of the Department on reporting wrongdoing to, responding to requests from, and cooperating with the Office of Inspector General, and for other purposes.

05/18/2022: H.R. 6064—To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for a review of examinations, furnished by the Secretary, to individuals who submit claims to the Secretary for compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, for mental and physical conditions linked to military sexual trauma.

05/18/2022: H.R. 6961—Dignity for MST Survivors Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve hearings before the Board of Veterans' Appeals regarding claims involving military sexual trauma.

05/18/2022: H.R. 7335—MST Claims Coordination Act, To improve coordination between the Veterans Health Administration and the Veterans Benefits Administration with respect to claims for compensation arising from military sexual trauma, and for other purposes.

06/15/2022: H.R. 2726—VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a plan to reduce the backlog of requests for information made to the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes.

06/23/2022: H.R. 6411—STRONG Veterans Act of 2022, To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

07/13/2022: S. 3373—Honoring our PACT Act of 2022, To improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes. *(Public law 117–168)*. * Originated in House as H.R. 3967.

08/12/2022: H.R. 8656—To designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Mishawaka, Indiana, as the "Jackie Walorski VA Clinic". Passed House without objection. *(Public law 117–179)*.

09/14/2022: H.R. 5916—Wounded Warrior Access Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the electronic request of certain records, and for other purposes. Passed House under suspension.

09/14/2022: H.R. 7735—Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefit Act of 2022, To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update the appraisal requirements for certain loans guaranteed by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

09/14/2022: H.R. 7846—Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022, To increase, effective as of December 1, 2022, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes. *(Public law 117–191)*.

09/14/2022: H.R. 7939—Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act of 2022, To make permanent certain educational assistance benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in the case of changes to courses of education by reason of emergency situations, and for other purposes.

09/14/2022: H.R. 8260—Faster Payments to Veterans' Survivors Act of 2022, To amend title 38, United States Code, to shorten the timeframe for designation of benefits under Department of Veterans Affairs life insurance programs, to improve the treatment of undisbursed life insurance benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

09/19/2022: H.R. 7698—To designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ventura, California, as the "Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner Outpatient Clinic". *(Public law 117–199)*.

09/28/2022: H.R. 5918—To amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes.

09/28/2022: H.R. 7589—REMOVE Copays Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the imposition or collection of copayments for certain mental health outpatient care visits of veterans, and for other purposes.

09/29/2022: H.R. 3304—CARS for Vets Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide or assist in providing an additional vehicle adapted for operation by disabled individuals to certain eligible persons, and for other purposes.

09/29/2022: H.R. 8510—Strengthening Whistleblower Protections at the Department of Veterans Affairs Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

09/29/2022: H.R. 8875—Expanding Home Loans for Guard and Reservists Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility of members of the National Guard for housing loans guaranteed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

09/29/2022: H.R. 8888—Food Security for All Veterans Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Office of Food Security, and for other purposes.

11/14/2022: H.R. 5481—To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the "Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic".

11/14/2022: H.R. 6722—To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic".

11/14/2022: H.R. 6863—To designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center".

11/14/2022: H.R. 7903—To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic".

11/14/2022: H.R. 7925—To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Palm Desert, California, as the "Sy Kaplan VA Clinic".

11/17/2022: H.R. 2250—Department of Veterans Affairs Information Technology Reform Act of 2021, To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the management of information technology projects and investments of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

11/17/2022: H.R. 5721—VIPER Act of 2021, To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve research conducted within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

11/17/2022: H.R. 7277—Improving Oversight of the Veterans Community Care Providers Act of 2022, To improve the methods by which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs identifies health care providers that are not eligible to participate in the Veterans Community Care Program.

11/17/2022: H.R. 7299—SVAC Act of 2022, To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to obtain an independent cybersecurity assessment of information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

12/01/2022: H.R. 2521—To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the feasibility and advisability of furnishing doula services to certain veterans, and for other purposes.

12/01/2022: H.R. 4601—Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes.

12/01/2022: H.R. 4772—Mark O'Brien VA Clothing Allowance Improvement Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the application and review process of the Department of Veterans Affairs for clothing allowance claims submitted by veterans, and for other purposes.

12/01/2022: H.R. 5943—To designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Greenville, South Carolina, as the "Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell VA Clinic".

12/01/2022: H.R. 7158—Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act, To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into contracts and agreements for the payment of care in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical foster homes for certain veterans who are unable to live independently, and for other purposes.

12/15/2022: H.R. 1948—VA Employee Fairness Act of 2021. To amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration.

APPENDIX II: PUBLIC LAWS ENACTED

Public Law 117–4: H.R. 1276—Strengthening and Amplifying Vaccination Efforts to Locally Immunize All Veterans and Every Spouse Act

Public Law 117–16: H.R. 2523—THRIVE Act

Public Law 117–18: H.R. 711—West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021

Public Law 117–21: H.R. 2441—Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans Mental Health Act of 2021

Public Law 117–37: H.R. 1448—PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act

Public Law 117–42: H.R. 5293—Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2021

Public Law 117–56: H.R. 3475—To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Columbus, Georgia, as the "Robert S. Poydasheff VA Clinic"

Public Law 117–57: H.R. 4172—To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Aurora, Colorado, as the "Lieutenant Colonel John W. Mosley VA Clinic"

Public Law 117–62: H.R. 2093—Veterans and Family Information Act

Public Law 117–63: H.R. 2911—VA Transparency & Trust Act of 2021

Public Law 117–64: H.R. 1510—To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a report on the use of cameras in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs

Public Law 117–76: H.R. 5545—REMOTE Act

Public Law 117–89: H.R. 1281—To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Gaylord, Michigan, as the "Navy Corpsman Steve Andrews Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic"

Public Law 117–96: H.R. 2545—To amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes

Public Law 117–98: H.R. 3665—To designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in San Diego, California, as the "Jennifer Moreno Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center", and to support the designation of a component of such medical center in honor of Kathleen Bruyere

Public Law 117–154: H.R. 4591—VA Electronic Health Record Transparency Act of 2021

Public Law 117–168: S. 3373 (Originally H.R. 3967): Honoring our PACT Act of 2022

Public Law 117–175: H.R. 5754—Patient Advocate Tracker Act

Public Law 117–179: H.R. 8656—To designate the clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Mishawaka, Indiana, as the "Jackie Walorski VA Clinic"

Public Law 117–190: H.R. 7500—Fiscal Year 2022 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act

Public Law 117–191: H.R. 7846—Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022

Public Law 117–199: H.R. 7698—To designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Ventura, California, as the "Captain Rosemary Bryant Mariner Outpatient Clinic".

Public Law 117–233: H.R. 5481—To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the "Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic"

Public Law 117–235: H.R. 6722—To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic"

Public Law 117–236: H.R. 6863—To designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center"

Public Law 117–237: H.R. 7903—To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic"

Public Law 117–238: H.R. 7925—To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Palm Desert, California, as the "Sy Kaplan VA Clinic"

Public Law 117–XXX: H.R. 8260—Faster Payments to Veterans' Survivors Act of 2022

Public Law 117–XXX: H.R. 7735—Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefit Act of 2022

Public Law 117–XXX: H.R. 7335—MST Claims Coordination Act

Public Law 117–XXX: H.R. 7299—SVAC Act of 2022

Public Law 117–XXX: H.R. 6961—Dignity for MST Survivors Act

Public Law 117–XXX: H.R. 6604—Veterans Eligible to Transfer School (VETS) Credit Act

Public Law 117–XXX: H.R. 6064—To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine for a review of examinations, furnished by the Secretary, to individuals who submit claims to the Secretary for compensation under chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, for mental and physical conditions linked to military sexual trauma

Public Law 117–XXX: H.R. 5943—To designate the outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Greenville, South Carolina, as the "Lance Corporal Dana Cornell Darnell VA Clinic"

Public Law 117–XXX: H.R. 2724—VA Peer Support Enhancement for MST Survivors Act

Public Law 117–XXX: H.R. 7939—Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022

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