



November 13, 2024

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

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

RE: Letter of Support for *H.R. 8371, The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act*

Dear Chairman Bost and Ranking Member Takano:

As the country turned its attention this week to celebrating and honoring our nation's veterans, the undersigned also express our gratitude and offer strong support for H.R. 8371, *The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act*. We represent the advocates for older adults, including those suffering from Alzheimer's and related dementia, and the leading senior living industry organizations who have made this legislation a priority for the lame duck session of Congress. The time is now to get this important bill over the finish line to deliver much needed options for long-term care to our veterans. Please place this important legislation on the Suspension calendar next week.

This legislation includes several bipartisan and bicameral proposals to reform and improve the delivery of healthcare, benefits, and services at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for veterans, their families, and their survivors. In addition to the groups represented in this request, the broad support for this legislation includes 20 veteran service organizations (VSOs), major homelessness prevention organizations, education training providers, health and aging services organizations, as well as private companies, which underscores the urgency for immediate action. ([See list of supporters](#)).

Included in this bill under Subtitle B, Section 127, is the key provisions of the "Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act," which the undersigned organizations have endorsed and strongly supported this Congress. This particular section authorizes the VA to offer assisted living settings for aging and disabled veterans who would otherwise require more costly nursing home care. This pilot program will give veterans additional options for how and where they can get the long-term care they need as well as inform future policy decisions to meet the growing care needs of our nation's aging veterans.

The VA has acknowledged the challenges relative to the aging veteran population and the need and value of rebalancing its long-term care programs. The proposal is an economically sound and sensible approach to demonstrate the benefits of assisted living settings to the resident veteran, their families, friends, and fellow veterans. It provides the VA critical flexibility to address the needs of a rapidly growing population of aging or disabled veterans who are not able to live at home and future costs savings will help more veterans receive the assistance they need.

Please take action to advance this legislation this year and place it on the Suspension calendar.

Thank you for your work to improve the lives of our veterans.

Sincerely,

Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Impact Movement
American Seniors Housing Association
Argentum
LeadingAge
National Center for Assisted Living

cc: Speaker Mike Johnson
Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries