

COMMANDER JOHN SCOTT HANNON VETERANS MENTAL HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT S. 785



Many wounded warriors struggle with mental health challenges. Even many who lead healthy, productive lives today have overcome significant challenges in their transition from the military. The Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 offers more than 30 provisions designed to connect more veterans with support services, help develop new treatments for PTSD and TBI, improve mental well-being, increase resilience, and reduce veteran suicide.

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee passed this legislation unanimously. WWP URGES CONGRESS TO follow the committee's lead and support this legislation to:

- Create a new pilot program to extend VA's reach into the community, expand programming through non-profits, and improve upstream interventions.
- Align the medical research community to more quickly develop targeted therapies for PTSD and TBI.
- Improve collaboration between DoD and VA on mental health research, transition assistance programs, and clinical and non-clinical mental health initiatives.
- Study and invest in innovative and alternative treatment options like recreational, animal, and agri-therapy, yoga, and meditation.

WHO IS AFFECTED?

- 91% of warriors report experiencing a severe mental injury during their military service.
- 77% of warriors suffer from depression.
- Almost one-third of warriors have difficulty getting mental health care, put off getting such care, or do not get the care they need.

**Source: 2019 WWP Annual Warrior Survey*

WWP EFFORTS TO SUPPORT VETERANS AFFECTED BY MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES:

- In 2019, WWP invested over \$63 million in mental health programming and granted more than \$43 million to 41 nonprofit organizations to address a myriad of needs including community integration, post-traumatic growth, and suicide prevention.
- WWP has partnered with four academic medical centers to form the Warrior Care Network. This program offers veterans a year's worth of mental health care in a two- to three-week intensive outpatient program.