

# JON'S VETERANS BILLS *Signed into Law*

**THIS CONGRESS**

## The VA MISSION Act

Despite its best intentions, the Choice Program hasn't worked for many Montana veterans. Jon has helped hundreds of these veterans navigate the bureaucracy and red tape, but one-off solutions were not enough—veterans needed wholesale change. So, Jon work directly with Montana veterans to draft a bill that scraps the Choice Program, strengthens the VA and uses the private sector to fill in the gaps.

## Veterans Appeals Modernization Act

This bipartisan bill streamlines the current disability benefits appeals process, creating three separate options so veterans can choose what works for them. It also establishes deadline goals for how quickly the VA can issue a final decision on an appeal. This means veterans aren't forced to wait for D.C. bureaucrats to decide what benefits they can and can't receive.

## VA Accountability & Whistleblower Protection Act

This bipartisan bill allows the VA to quickly fire bad employees without sacrificing the due process rights of dedicated VA employees. It also provides incentives for managers to address poor performance and misconduct, strengthens protections for whistleblowers, and improves VA leadership through additional training.

## Veterans Education Assistance Act

This bipartisan bill breaks down barriers to education for Montana veterans, Reservists and their families by removing the arbitrary 15-year time limit in which *GI Bill* benefits expire. It also allows Guardsmen and Reservists to count their training, deployments and medical treatment towards education benefits, just like active duty service members.

## VA Choice Program Improvement Act

The Veterans Choice Program allows veterans to get health care at private providers. While it was crafted with the best of intentions, there have been some issues in Montana with the roll out of the Program. This bipartisan bill will reduce out-of-pocket costs for veterans and ensure that providers are getting paid in a more timely manner.

## VA Quality Employment Act

This legislation streamlines the hiring process for hard-to-fill positions and helps address crippling workforce shortages by increasing recruitment efforts for talented students and recent graduates to work at the VA. It also creates a VA-wide database for vacant and hard-to-fill positions, and expands a private-public sector partnership to foster innovation and better practices at the VA.

## VA Expiring Authorities Act

This bipartisan bill funds 20 VA programs that help rural, disabled and homeless veterans access mental health care, make it to their doctor appointments on time and get back on their feet. The bill also includes provisions from Jon's *Deborah Sampson Act*, which provides more opportunities for women veterans to seek readjustment counseling at the VA.

## Veterans' Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act

This bipartisan bill increases disability and survivor benefits for veterans and their families to help them keep up with the rising cost of housing, utilities and food.

## John Olsen Toxic Exposure Declassification Act

Over 50 years ago, the military conducted top secret weapons testing on thousands of its own men. Billings veteran John Olsen was one of them. Olsen sought treatment for related ailments at the VA, but because his medical records were still classified, the VA denied Olsen care. This bill declassifies these records to get Olsen the medical care he deserves.

## The VA Clinics Act

This legislation recognizes the service and sacrifice of three distinguished Montana veterans by naming VA facilities in Missoula and Billings in their honor.

U.S. SENATOR FOR MONTANA

**JON TESTER**