

Background:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) provides or purchases long-term care for eligible veterans through 14 long-term care programs in institutional settings such as nursing homes and noninstitutional settings like veteran's personal homes.

A September 2021 VA report to Congress on long-term care projections indicated **veterans over age 85 were the fastest growing veteran population in the VA's health care system**. Over the next 20 years, the number of veterans in that age group eligible for nursing home care will increase from 61,000 to 387,000, a 535% jump. The VA acknowledged in the report the value of rebalancing long-term services and support and shifting resources from nursing home care to home and community-based services.

While the VA proactively works to extend care to aging and disabled veterans, lawmakers are also advancing legislation such as Sen. Moran's (R-KS) and Rep. Brownley's (D-CA-26) **Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act (S.141, H.R.542)** and Sen. Moran's (R-KS) and Rep. Miller-Meeks' (R-IA-1) **Veterans' HEALTH Act (S.1315, H.R.3520)** to expand, accelerate, and supplement the department's ability to meet the rapidly growing needs of veterans, their families, and caregivers.

The **Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act**, recently passed in the U.S. House of Representatives by an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote of 414-5, would allow the VA to spend the same amount on noninstitutional care as institutional care for veterans that receive nursing home level care in their homes. Currently, the VA can only spend up to 65% of the cost of institutional care on home care services for veterans. But this is counterintuitive, as home care costs the VA significantly less than institutional care. For many catastrophically disabled veterans, the cost of home care can quickly exceed the 65% limit.

The **Veterans' HEALTH Act** would allow VCCP providers up to one year to submit claims for payment to the VA for services furnished rather than 180 days, which is current law.

Our Ask:

We urge that you co-sponsor and actively support the **Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act** and the **Veterans' HEALTH Act** so that our nation's veterans may receive the care they need and rely on in their own homes, where they deserve to remain.

The Home Care Association of America firmly supports both bills and will continue to work with legislators in forming and implementing the bill's laudable goals.

