



NATIONAL COALITION for HOMELESS VETERANS

1730 M St., NW Suite 705

Washington, DC 20036

202-546-1969 / 800-VET-HELP

Website: www.nchv.org Email: info@nchv.org

Hill Watch: Homeless Veterans Prevention Act of 2017

Measure introduced in Senate; includes dental, legal provisions

Senators Burr (R-NC), Hirono (D-HI), and Tester (D-MT) have introduced the Homeless Veterans Prevention Act of 2017 in the Senate. This bill, S. 1072 (<https://www.burr.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/homeless%20vets%202017.pdf>), would have a massive impact on the work you do every day to prevent and end veteran homelessness. If passed, this bill would:

- Allow *per diem* payments through the GPD program to be made to support dependents who accompany their veteran parent in their homelessness,
- Create an expansive public-private partnership to expand the legal services available to homeless veterans across the country,
- Provide dental care through VA to homeless/ formerly homeless veterans living in HUD-VASH, a domiciliary, or grant and per diem program, among other locations, and
- Increase the authorization limit for the SSVF program to \$500 million, opening the door for the renewal of surge grants set to expire at the end of this year.

In a slightly different form, this bill has been introduced into Congress before. Over the years, pieces of the legislation have been taken out and passed piecemeal. However, the most potentially impactful sections (including dental and legal) have never made it past the final hurdle. These two areas of need in particular appear on every CHALLENGE report as a top unmet need for homeless and at-risk veterans. Let's not allow one more Congress to go by without passing this bill. NCHV calls on all to fully support passage of this bill in its entirety, as we do.

NCHV Annual Conference Coming Soon!

The Public Policy Session at this year's Annual Conference will be a chance to get attendees up to speed on what is happening on Capitol Hill, and to prepare them for meetings with Congress. Will you help yourself and fellow providers across the country to better serve homeless veterans, by walking the halls of Congress? Even if you have never spoken to your congressional offices before, NCHV will be able to prepare you for your first meeting. Are you already planning on taking these meetings? Let us know!

It is vitally important for the welfare of the veterans we serve that we all speak with a loud, clear, and unified voice on the most important national issues. If you want to be a part of the NCHV Advocacy Team and learn about how to advocate to Congress, or just join your own efforts with the national effort, please email me right now at jstewart@nchv.org.

Throughout the rest of the Annual Conference, there will be several policy-focused sessions for you to attend. At these sessions you will have the opportunity to hear about changes being made to policy, ask questions directly of federal policy makers in the federal agencies, and give input to NCHV staff as they work on proposals to change national policy. Please bring your questions and your expertise to these sessions! Members are crucial to the success of the Conference, to NCHV, and to the effort to end veteran homelessness nationally.