

The Honorable John Thune  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
House Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries,

The undersigned veteran service organizations and partner advocacy groups appreciate your continued commitment to improving the health and well-being of all who have served. In recognition of Women's History Month, we respectfully urge consideration and passage of several priority bills that address longstanding gaps in research, health care, mental health access, and claims processes for servicewomen and women veterans.

For more than two centuries, women have served this nation with distinction, from covert participation in the Revolutionary War to formal integration through the Women's Army Corps and WAVES during World War II, to modern contributions across every military occupational specialty, including service on Cultural Support Teams and Women's Initiative Teams. Yet despite their demonstrated leadership and sacrifice, persistent disparities in care and benefits continue to undermine women veterans' post service health outcomes. The legislation outlined below represents targeted, evidence-based solutions to challenges repeatedly documented by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and independent reviews:

**Servicewomen and Women Veterans Menopause Research Act (H.R. 2717 / S. 1320)**

- Requires the Department of Defense (DoD) and VA to assess current research, identify gaps in existing elements of access and care, and to develop a plan to improve understanding and treatment of service-related menopause impacts.

**Improving Menopause Care for Veterans Act (H.R. 219)**

- Directs GAO to review VA menopause care and requires VA to develop a systemwide plan to strengthen access and quality.

**Building Resources and Access for Veterans' Mental Health Engagement Act (H.R. 6024 / S. 609)**

- Expands Vet Center capacity, extends suicide prevention grants, and improves VA outreach and data related to gender-specific mental health risks.

**Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act (H.R. 2201)**

- Requires annual MST-specific training, directs VA to gather necessary records from veteran records as evidence for claims, and strengthens quality oversight for examiners.

**Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act (H.R. 2576 / S. 1245)**

- Clarifies evidence standards, expands counseling eligibility, allows survivors to select VA clinicians for exams, and improves coordination between VA health care and benefits.

Passing these bills would meaningfully improve access to high quality, gender responsive care and strengthen the systems that women veterans rely on throughout their lives. We encourage your support, co-sponsorship, and continued partnership as we work together to ensure that women who serve receive the care and benefits they have earned.

**Very Respectfully,**

Disabled American Veterans

Military Officers Association of America

Minority Veterans of America

Paralyzed Veterans of America

The Pink Berets

Service Women's Action Network

Student Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans of America

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Wounded Warrior Project