

Co-Sponsor the Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act (S. 495/H.R. 1815)

The National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL), the assisted living voice of the American Health Care Association (AHCA), strongly endorses the **Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act (S. 495/H.R. 1815)**. This bipartisan bill – introduced by Senators Jon Tester (D-MT), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Patty Murray (D-WA), and Mike Rounds (R-SD) and U.S. Representatives Elissa Slotkin (D-MI), Bryan Steil (R-WI), Annie Kuster (D-NH), and David Trone (D-MD) – creates a commonsense approach to identifying and securing greater options and opportunities for our nation's veterans to access long term care supportive services.

More specifically, the proposed 3-year pilot program created by this legislation will assess the effectiveness of providing eligible veterans with the option to move into an assisted living community to receive the personal care and services they need. This proposal calls for feedback from veterans, requires geographic diversity to ensure rural participation, and provides oversight for participating assisted living communities.

Assisted living communities provide housing, person-centered care and services, and meal service, while also promoting social engagement and well-being. NCAL (in addition to a range of veteran service organizations/stakeholders nationwide endorsing this legislation) is confident this pilot program will demonstrate the benefits of assisted living.

The timing is right for such action given what we know about aging demographics in our country and the corresponding demand for supportive services. In fact, a September 2021 VA report to Congress on long term care projections indicated veterans over age 85 were the fastest growing veteran population in VA's health care system.

As a country, we must prepare for this demand for long term care and ensure that veterans have options for quality care and settings such as assisted living that are also cost effective. They simply deserve it. We urge you to cosponsor the **Expanding Veterans' Options for Long Term Care Act** and help to advance this important legislation during the 118th Congress.



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