



THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

DEMOCRATS | RANKING MEMBER MARK TAKANO

H.R. 645

The Healthy Foundations for Homeless Veterans Act (Cherfilus-McCormick-D-FL)

Topline

Our veterans have sacrificed their health, safety, and welfare to serve and protect this country we all love. We must not stop until every veteran has a place to call home.

What does the bill do?

This legislation extends the temporary flexibilities granted to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in Section 4201(a) of the *Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2021* to address veterans' homelessness through the provision of resources for their basic needs. H.R. 645 allows VA to use funds for:

1. Assistance required for the safety and survival of the veteran (such as food, shelter, clothing, blankets, and hygiene items).
2. Transportation required to support the stability and health of the veteran (such as transportation for appointments with service providers, the conduct of housing searches, and the obtainment of food and supplies).
3. Communications equipment and services (such as tablets, smartphones, disposable phones, and related service plans) required to support the stability and health of the veteran (such as through the maintenance of contact with service providers, prospective landlords, and family members).

Bill Impact

To date, VA has used nearly \$9 million to pay for essentials for over 39,000 veterans through this authority. The authority has also been used to pay for over 416,000 rides for nearly 42,000 homeless veterans to get them to and from medical appointments and job interviews.

H.R. 645 has 57 **bipartisan** cosponsors.

Endorsements: Disabled American Veterans, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, MAZON, Bento, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Minority Veterans of America, Community Solutions, The American Legion, and Code Platoon.