

S. 10, VA CAREERS Act of 2023

Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee along with Senator and SVAC Member John Boozman (R-AR) introduced S. 10, *the VA CAREERS Act of 2023*, legislation to bolster VA's efforts to recruit and retain strong clinical and managerial leadership into VHA.

NOVA asks for your support of the bill.

Background:

COVID has changed the landscape of the health care industry. Shortages throughout the industry to include nurses at every level as well as clinical and administrative executives have put stress on health care delivery.

VHA has not updated many of their salary caps which prohibit them from effectively recruiting and retaining critical health care professionals in local markets. In addition to modification of pay limitations for specialty clinical positions and increasing pay caps for certain leadership positions in VHA, the bill would allow VA to pay for licensure costs for recipients of VA scholarship programs; require additional staff training on care models for managing older veterans' health care needs; expand leave options for clinicians during national emergencies; provide reimbursement for continuing education costs for all levels of nurses; and modernize VA's human resources program.

NOVA strongly supports the VA CAREERS Act, as it contains many of our 2023 legislative priority goals.

The bill will go a long way towards ensuring the VA health system can remain competitive with the private sector in attracting and retaining health care professionals who can provide the highest quality care to our nation's veterans.