

Dear Senator _____:

I am writing to you about S.1315, Veterans' Health Empowerment, Access, Leadership and Transparency for our Heroes (HEALTH) Act of 2023, and the Making Community Care Work for Veterans Act. As a nurse working at VA (or you can add your facility), I believe if enacted as written, they will be devastating to Veterans healthcare.

The bills will vastly open eligibility for community care which would cause substantial amounts of funds to be diverted from VA to the private sector without referral, oversight, or utilization review.

This will decimate VA's ability to continue providing high-quality, integrated, whole health care that, research shows, outperforms the private sector. VA will be transformed from being a system that provides healthcare to one that pays for healthcare at significantly higher costs.

It also does nothing to hold private sector care to the same standards as VA clinicians, like me with respect to understanding Veteran culture and how to care for their complex needs. Additionally, there is no accountability for the private sector to report their wait times, care quality, or provider training.

We can't let our Veterans down by unraveling the high-quality, integrated, and comprehensive healthcare found in the VA.

I urge you not to support the provisions in these bills.

Thanks you for your continued support of VA and the Veterans its serves.

Sincerely,