



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN JERRY MORAN

To America's Veterans,

Your selfless service and willingness to sacrifice on behalf of your fellow Americans is what makes this country truly exceptional. During your military service, many of you traveled far from home and those you love; you went through rigorous training to prepare for duty and endured the hardship of deployments abroad and in combat. For your courage, commitment, and sacrifice—we thank you. As our nation grapples with the challenges placed upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is my sincerest hope that each American embrace your example of service and teamwork.

Throughout my time in public service, I have relied on veterans to help set the agenda in Congress. In my home state of Kansas, when someone calls the office, attends one of my town halls, or runs into me on the street and shares their personal story about a difficulty they are experiencing—that tells me what our priorities in Washington need to be.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Veterans' Affairs Committees my entire time in Congress, and in January of this year, I became Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. I am honored by this responsibility, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to meet veterans where they are and, in every way that we can, try to make your lives better. That is why one of the first bills of my tenure as Chairman to be unanimously advanced by our Committee was the *Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act*.

This bipartisan legislation will give the VA and communities serving veterans across the nation the necessary tools and resources to better serve you in several key ways. This legislation will provide funding to organizations already serving you in our communities across the country in an effort to bolster their work so that you may benefit, and will direct VA to begin targeted precision medicine research which will greatly improve how mental health conditions are diagnosed and treated.

This crucial bill will provide greater access to the care you deserve, improve rural access to mental health care and make targeted investments in promising innovative and alternative treatment approaches.

We need to reform how veterans access mental health care and suicide prevention programs and need to make certain that the best policies, programs, and systems are in place to provide those in need with the necessary care. That is why this Mental Health Month, I'm working with President Donald Trump and my colleagues in Congress to get this crucial legislation signed into law.

Our nation has a duty to make certain that you have the support and resources you need. You are highly capable and motivated individuals, who are a valuable addition to any community—yet too often the invisible wounds of war can go undiagnosed and untreated. For those of you who might be experiencing those wounds, I want you to know that you are not alone, we appreciate you and you deserve the best our nation has to offer.

This Mental Health Month, I encourage you to keep sharing your stories, continue serving those around you, and in this unprecedented time—reach out to your fellow veterans to check-in. Mental health affects millions of Americans every single day and we can all make a difference in someone's life. If I can ever be of service to you, please don't hesitate to reach out at <https://www.veterans.senate.gov/veterans>. Additionally, I invite you to explore the Mental Health Month resources at www.MakeTheConnection.MHM.

Our nation is grateful to you for your service and sacrifice, and your continued service at home as supportive neighbors and active members of our communities.

Sincerely,



Jerry Moran
Chairman, Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs