

The Elizabeth Dole Act

Informational One-Pager

WHO ARE MILITARY AND VETERAN CAREGIVERS?

There are more than 7.8 million military and veteran caregiver adults and children in the United States. These spouses, parents, children, and loved ones transform their lives and set aside their own careers to care for those who cared for us. Together, they save the nation more than \$15 billion annually.

WHAT DOES THE BILL DO?

The Elizabeth Dole Act reinvests in caregiver support at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, establishes a user-friendly resource center, and expands VA Home-Based Community Services nationwide. This legislation provides greater access to resources and helps to determine which services provide optimal support for the caregiver and their family as they navigate a complex web of available help.

Representatives Julia Brownley (D-CA-26) and Jack Bergman (R-MI-01) introduced The Elizabeth Dole Act. This bipartisan, comprehensive, and transformative legislation is named in honor of Senator Elizabeth Dole as a testament to her advocacy on behalf of our Hidden Heroes. In a show of progress, Recently, Senators Jerry Moran (R-KS), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), and Jon Tester (D-MT), of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) introduced the Senate version of The Elizabeth Dole Act.

Among its many provisions, The Elizabeth Dole Act would:

- Improve the transition of caregivers who are ineligible for or were discharged from the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) and establish automatic enrollment in the Program of General Caregiver Support Services (PGCSS).
- Require the development of a standardized assessment tool to help assess the needs of the family and recommend specific Home and Community-Based Services.
- Create a digital hub for caregiver resources.
- Expand VA Home-Based Community Services and leverage caregiver-inclusive language.
- Commission a VA report with recommendations on how VA might expand mental health services and support for caregivers.
- Enhance coordination of the VA with nonprofits and Veteran Service Organizations to address gaps in resources and work collaboratively to support the military caregiving community.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Elizabeth Dole Act has been introduced in the House and Senate. We encourage your members to cosponsor this transformative legislation and help it become law.



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