

# Dole Act expanding VA care includes ROA provisions for Reserve and Guard

*ROA applauds Congress for passing today the Senator Elizabeth Dole Act, including provisions proposed by ROA.*

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES,  
December 17, 2024 /

EINPresswire.com/ -- [ROA](#) applauds the House of Representatives and the

Senate for passing Monday the Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, including provisions proposed by ROA.



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After a tough fight, the advocacy of leading military and veterans’ groups has paid off in passage of a bill strongly supported by ROA that significantly enhances VA programs where gaps have existed.”

*ROA’s executive director,  
retired Maj Gen. Jeffrey  
Phillips*

of a bill strongly supported by ROA that broadly and significantly enhances VA programs where gaps have existed”, said ROA’s executive director, retired Maj Gen. Jeffrey Phillips. “We thank those advocates – our ‘battle buddies’ in the fight for veterans’ care – and members of Congress for bipartisan support.”

The act awaits the president’s signature; according to [Congress.gov](#), it “addresses various programs, benefits, and services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), including those related to health care, educational assistance, home loans, homelessness, and disability and memorial affairs. Among other elements, the bill

- modifies the administration of the Veterans Community Care Program, including by providing protections for care agreements between veterans and clinicians;
- increases the expenditure cap for non-institutional care alternatives to nursing home care;
- provides certain support to family caregivers under the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers;
- modifies the administration of certain educational assistance programs and benefits, including by removing the expiration on a surviving spouse’s entitlement under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship;

- expands the Native American Direct Loan program by allowing Native American veterans to refinance other existing mortgage loans on the same property if certain conditions are met;
- requires the VA to provide a burial and funeral allowance for certain veterans who die prior to October 1, 2026, in a home or other setting at which the veteran was receiving VA hospice care (if such care was directly preceded by VA hospital or nursing home care);
- temporarily increases the maximum rate of per diem payments provided by the VA to entities that furnish services and transitional housing to homeless veterans;
- authorizes a program to modernize the electronic health record and other relevant health information technology systems of the VA; and
- addresses various oversight and reporting matters."

The Dole Act includes provisions that ROA proposed:

- Expanding access to injunctive relief.
- Increasing liquidated damages awarded to plaintiffs.
- Incentivizing legal representation for claimants with cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.
- Requiring a review of Department of Labor's processes.

ROA is the only national military association that solely and exclusively supports the Reserve and National Guard. Find us at [ROA.org](http://ROA.org).

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