



July 10, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Request to Consider H.R. 8317, *The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act*, on the House Suspension Calendar.

Dear Speaker Johnson and Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the undersigned advocates for older adults, including those suffering from Alzheimer’s and related dementia, and the leading senior living industry organizations, we strongly urge you to support H.R. 8371, *The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act*, specifically by placing this important legislation on the Suspension Calendar before the August recess.

This legislation includes several bipartisan and bicameral proposals to reform and improve the delivery of healthcare, benefits, and services at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for veterans, their families, and their survivors. In addition to the groups represented in this request, the broad support for this legislation includes 20 veteran service organizations (VSOs), major homelessness prevention organizations, education training providers, elderly care advocacy organizations, as well as private companies, which underscores the urgency for immediate action. ([See list of supporters](#)).

Included in this bill under Subtitle B, Section 127, is the key provisions of the “Expanding Veterans’ Options for Long Term Care Act,” which authorizes the VA to offer assisted living settings for aging and disabled veterans who would otherwise require more expensive nursing home care. This pilot program is an economically sound and sensible approach to measure the benefits of this setting to not only the resident veteran, but to their families, friends, and fellow veterans. It provides the VA critical flexibility to address the needs of a rapidly growing population of aging or disabled veterans who are not able to live at home and future costs savings will help more veterans receive the assistance they need.

Please take action to advance this legislation now by placing it on the Suspension calendar. Thank you for your work to improve the lives of our veterans.

Sincerely,

Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Impact Movement
American Seniors Housing Association
Argentum
LeadingAge
National Center for Assisted Living