

Modernizing VA Brain Health Care

The VFW's Concern:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) treats millions of veterans for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and other brain health conditions, many of which are complex, overlapping, and highly individualized. While VA has expanded access to mental health services, veterans continue to report that existing treatment approaches do not work for everyone, particularly for those with persistent or co-occurring conditions. With nearly 2.5 million veterans using VA mental health services, it is uniquely positioned to modernize brain health care by strengthening the research and clinical infrastructure needed to better understand and treat PTSD, TBI, and related neurological conditions in an evidence-based and veteran-centric way.

PTSD and TBI are frequently treated through separate systems despite significant clinical overlap. Veterans with both conditions often experience fragmented care, underscoring the need for a more integrated and realistic approach to brain health treatment. Modernizing VA brain health care is not about prematurely endorsing specific therapies or bypassing scientific standards. It is about ensuring VA has the capacity to responsibly study promising approaches to make informed decisions about if and how they should be integrated into care.

The VFW Urges Congress to:

Pass H.R.2623, *Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act of 2025*, to authorize VA to establish Centers of Excellence to research and evaluate innovative approaches to treating PTSD and related conditions, and to develop the evidence and clinical expertise needed to inform future care decisions.

Pass H.R.6444, *Blast Overpressure Research and Mitigation Task Force Act*, to improve coordination, research, and care delivery between VA and the Department of Defense for veterans experiencing TBI, PTSD, and related conditions due to blast exposure.

Pass S.800, *Precision Brain Health Research Act of 2025*, to strengthen VA's ability to conduct advanced brain health research focused on individualized care for conditions such as PTSD and TBI.

Pass S.2737, *Veterans National Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act*, to expand VA's national TBI treatment infrastructure and improve access to specialized, interdisciplinary care to support more coordinated brain health treatment.

Note: For H.R.2623 cosponsorship, please email Alicia Seagraves at alicia.seagraves@mail.house.gov.

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