

29 April, 2026

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chair, Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Veterans
Affairs

The Honorable Michael Bost
Chair, House Committee on Veterans Affairs

The Honorable Mark Takano
Ranking Member, House Committee on Veterans
Affairs

Dear Chairmen Moran and Bost, Senator Blumenthal, and Representative Takano:

The undersigned military and veteran advocacy groups thank you and your committees for your ongoing efforts to address veteran mental health and the veteran suicide epidemic. We fully support your committees' prompt consideration and favorable reporting of *The Written Informed Consent Act* ([H.R. 4837/S.3314](#)).

Furthermore, we ask your respective Committees to exercise oversight to address and close significant gaps in informed consent practices at the VA, which have been identified numerous times by the VA's Office of Inspector General (VA OIG). These gaps relate to the Veteran Health Administration's ongoing failures to obtain informed consent when prescribing medications that host Box Warnings, per the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), concerning suicide risk.

The need for *The Written Informed Consent Act* is obvious: over the past 20 years, the country has experienced a consistent failure by prescribers to follow existing mental health medication safety protocols (as mentioned above). This issue is even more severe within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), where nearly [70%](#) of veterans receiving VA healthcare are prescribed mental health medications, most of which include FDA Box Warnings. The VA OIG has conducted at least five [investigations](#) into both the overall VHA system and individual veteran suicides, revealing a failure by the VHA to document informed consent discussions with patients. In two VA health systems, investigators found that "[most](#)" veterans' health records lacked documentation of informed consent. Additionally, in [one case](#), a nurse practitioner admitted they had not discussed the suicide Box Warning with a 23-year-old veteran who clearly fell under the FDA's Box Warning, which is targeted at adolescents and young adults up to age 24. This is most concerning, because during this same twenty year period we have seen a [108% increase](#) in 18-34 year-old veteran suicides.

The Written Informed Consent Act will ensure veterans are fully informed about the risks associated with many of these medications, leaving no doubt about what information veterans are or are not provided. This legislation is not intended to discourage veterans from exploring treatment options for their care, as our organizations have been actively encouraging fellow veterans that "It is alright to not be alright." Arguing that written informed consent will "create stigma" around receiving such care is both false and highly questionable.

Instead, the *Written Informed Consent Act* will ensure that if any side effects of these medications occur, veterans will be educated enough to identify them and to be empowered to contact their doctor to safely adjust their treatment plan. This legislation will also ensure that veterans are informed about evidence-based alternative treatments and about what steps to take if they choose not to receive treatment.

We appreciate that the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee held hearings on December 3, 2025, to investigate the role of medication prescribing practices at the VA, where many of our groups submitted testimony in support of the *Written Informed Consent Act*. We also deeply appreciate your dedication to our nation's veterans and look forward to working with you to prevent unnecessary tragedies, many of which can be solved by safer and smarter prescribing practices for our nation's veterans.

It is our privilege to present this letter, endorsed by the 35 national veterans groups listed below.
Very Respectfully,

Tim Jensen
President, Grunt Style Foundation (GSF)

Will Wisner
Executive Director, GSF

Derek Blumke
Policy Fellow, GSF

Air Force Sergeants Association
American GI Forum
American Gold Star Mothers
American Legion
American Veterans (AMVETS)
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)
Black Veterans Project
Burn Pits 360
Commissioned Officers Association of the United States Public Health Service (COA)
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS)
Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)
Grunt Style Foundation (GSF)
Healing Household 6
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)
Jewish War Veterans of the USA (JWV)
Marine Corps League
Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
Minority Veterans of America
National Association of County Veteran Service Officers (NACVSO)
National Defense Committee (NDC)
Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA)
Operation First Response
Pink Berets
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)
Save A Warrior (SAW)
Student Veterans of America (SVA)
The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA)
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
US Army Ranger Association (USARA)
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
Veterans Strategic Solutions
Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)
With Honor
Wounded Paw Project

Copy:

- The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Chair, House Veterans Affairs, Health Subcommittee
- The Honorable Julia Brownley, Ranking Member, House Veterans Affairs, Health Subcommittee
- The Honorable Tim Sheehy, Senate Sponsor of *The Written Informed Consent Act*
- The Honorable Tommy Tuberville, Senate Lead Cosponsor of *The Written Informed Consent Act*
- The Honorable Gus Bilirakis, House Sponsor of *The Written Informed Consent Act*
- The Honorable Jack Bergman, Lead House Cosponsor of *The Written Informed Consent Act*
- The Honorable Doug Collins, Secretary, US Department of Veterans Affairs
- The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Secretary, US Department of Health and Human Services