



# Building Solutions for Veterans EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ACT

Ending veterans homelessness is a **top priority** for Chairman Tester, who is working tirelessly to ensure that *every* veteran has a safe place to call home through his **Building Solutions for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness Act**. This critical bill will make permanent pandemic-relief funding and resources that became essential to providing the most effective support to veterans, and fill in existing gaps in homelessness care to ensure that all veterans are connected with permanent and affordable housing.

## HELPS VETERANS GET QUICKLY BACK ON THEIR FEET

**Connects** veterans with long-term, meaningful employment.

**Makes permanent** the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program through the Department of Labor.

**Establishes** a five-year pilot program for community substance use recovery programs for unhoused veterans with job training and placement services.

## IMPROVES VETERANS HEALTH AND HOUSING RETENTION

**Directs** VA to evaluate and act on flexibilities and funding to combat the affordable housing shortage crisis.

**Expands** public transportation services for veterans to access mental health care, medical treatment, job services, and other essential needs.

**Requires** GAO to conduct a study on the true availability of affordable housing for veterans.

**37,000 veterans** experiencing homelessness in the United States

**More than 40% of veterans** experiencing homelessness are unsheltered

**2% increase** in the number of veterans in rural areas experiencing homelessness from 2019-2020

## REMOVES BARRIERS ON FUNDING FOR UNHOUSED VETERANS

**Makes** COVID-19 pandemic-relief flexibilities for VA capital grants permanent, which allows ending-homelessness organizations to pursue funding to make much needed changes and expansions of their housing programs post-pandemic.

**Increases** funding for VA grantees providing temporary housing and vital transition services in the fight to effectively end veterans homelessness.

**Allows** VA to supply ending-homelessness organizations with ongoing education, technical assistance, and support to best serve our nation's veterans.

## IMPROVES THE QUALITY OF CARE FOR AT-RISK VETERANS

**Increases** veterans' access to case management services to connect them with their earned benefits and resources from all federal, state, tribal, and local services.

**Empowers** VA to provide increased support to and share best practices with organizations providing services to veterans facing homelessness.

**Establishes** stable housing and appropriate medical care for veterans with medical needs who need assistance with activities of daily living while they await placement in appropriate permanent housing.

**Requires** VA to conduct a study on the success of and its ability to expand the Supportive Services for Veterans Family program, which includes providing rental assistance and other support to prevent homelessness.

## SUPPORT FOR CHAIRMAN TESTER'S BILL

Chairman Tester's comprehensive bill has received strong backing from various Veterans Service Organizations and ending-homelessness organizations in Montana and nationwide. It is supported by the **National Coalition for Homeless Veterans**, **US Vets**, the **Poverello Center** in Missoula, Montana, and the **California Association of Veteran Service Agencies**.