



## **The VA Beneficiary Travel Act of 2017**

### **Background:**

For the past 20 years, VA has provided a subsidy, known as beneficiary travel, for veterans who travel to receive a disability examination from contract examiners.

In 1996, The Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act established a pilot program for contractors to complete disability examinations for veterans applying for benefits administered by VA. The pilot program began with ten Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) regional offices and was funded using mandatory funds, which do not have to be annually appropriated by Congress.

In 2014, Congress [passed a law](#) to expand the pilot program to all 56 regional offices by fiscal year 2017.

The VA Beneficiary Travel Act of 2017 would clarify that VA is authorized to use mandatory funds to pay the cost of beneficiary travel for contract examinations.