

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN MIKE BOST

H.R. 3848: The HOME Act of 2023

Background:

The Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (PL. 116-315) temporarily increased the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) rate from 115% to 300% of domiciliary care. This temporary increase was made to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by providing funding to support homeless veterans through placing them in single occupancy hotel rooms and renovating existing rooms to reduce the spread of the virus. However, the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ended on May 11, 2023, and ended the temporary Grant and Per-Diem emergency authority. As a result, the GPD rate returned to 115%, as established by [H.R. 8275](#), the *Reducing Veteran Homelessness Act of 2020*, which was championed by former Speaker Kevin McCarthy, and increased the GPD rate from 100% to 115%. Although the GPD rate has traditionally covered the community providers' expenses such as housing, feeding, and other services offered to homeless veterans, inflation under the Biden Administration has resulted in a need to raise the GPD rate to help providers address the operating costs that have arisen over the last two years.

H.R. 3848, The Housing Our Military Veterans Effectively (HOME) Act, introduced by Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer, would increase the GPD rate from 115% to 133% to account for inflation from 2021-2023. H.R. 3848 would also allow for an additional increase of the GPD rate up to 200% in especially high cost areas. The VA Homeless Program Office would also be allowed to provide bedding, food, hygiene items, shelter, blankets, rideshares to medical appointments, and counselor care for homeless veterans until September 30, 2024. This legislation would also include increased oversight and reporting requirements of the program. Finally, the bill also provides an offset for the cost of these program changes by extending current rates for VA home loan funding fees.

The Message:

- Housing homeless veterans remains a top priority for Republicans, especially given the new economic hardship faced by many veterans due to recent increases in inflation.
- We must address the situation among homeless veterans created by the Biden administration's inflation and ensure it does not further harm our veterans.
- Increase the GPD rate would provide better care to veterans, house homeless veterans, and get veterans to medical appointments.
- The HOME Act is a fiscally responsible way to provide for our homeless veterans and thus should be a common sense, bipartisan proposal.