

Federal Laws to Prevent Suicide among U.S. Veterans

Thanks in part to AFSP advocates, Congress passed three impactful laws between 2020 and 2022 to prevent suicide and increase access to care for Veterans and their families. Join AFSP in raising awareness about these laws that are now in effect to support Veterans' mental health and prevent suicide.

COMPACT Act

The *COMPACT Act* allows Veterans in crisis to access crisis services in any health care facility in the U.S. Qualifying Veterans will have all costs covered, including transport, inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days, and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in healthcare through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to use this benefit, as long as they meet certain discharge status criteria.

More information is available through the VA at www.bit.ly/CompactAct

REMOVE Copays Act

The *REMOVE Copays Act* permanently eliminated copays for a Veteran's first three visits for outpatient mental health or substance use counseling arranged each year through the VA.

To learn more about scheduling VA outpatient visits, go to www.va.gov/health

Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act

The *Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act* established the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program, which provides funding for community providers to support Veterans' mental health.

This law also advanced VA mental health research capabilities, expanded telehealth access for Veterans in rural areas, established a scholarship program to expand VA's healthcare workforce, and more.

To learn more about advancements made by the Hannon Act, visit www.bit.ly/HannonAct

More Information

Visit mentalhealth.va.gov for more information about these and other programs. Improving Veterans' access to care is a top priority for AFSP. Visit afsp.org/military-and-veteran-suicide-prevention for more information about our work or contact the AFSP Public Policy Team at advocacy@afsp.org.