

Cosponsor and Support the *Saving Our Veterans Lives Act* (H.R.1987/S.926)

Secure firearm storage saves lives. The bipartisan *Saving Our Veterans Lives Act* will direct the VA to provide secure firearm storage devices to Veterans nationwide, supporting firearm safety and suicide prevention. **AFSP urges Congress to pass the *Saving Our Veterans Lives Act* to help prevent suicide among Veterans and their families.**

The Facts



Nearly **three in four Veteran suicides** (73.5%) involve firearms



47% of suicides among children and adolescents involve firearms



Most individuals who lack easy access to lethal means will **not die by suicide**

AFSP Recommendations

- **Help Veterans access secure firearm storage devices to protect themselves and their families**
- **Educate Veterans and health care providers who work with Veterans about the importance of lethal means safety, including secure firearm storage**
- **Support the Department of Veterans Affairs' efforts to prevent firearm suicide**

Background

- **H.R.1987** is led by Rep. Chris Deluzio (PA-17), Rep. John James (MI-10), Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01), and Rep. Greg Landsman (OH-01); it is in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee
- **S.926** is led by Senator Angus King (ME) and Senator Tim Sheehy (MT); it is in the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee
- **This bipartisan bill will direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to:**
 - Provide secure firearm storage devices to any Veteran upon request, free of charge
 - Develop and publish information on secure firearm storage, including a public awareness campaign to promote secure storage among Veterans and their families
- Less than a third of firearm owners store firearms in a secure manner
- A majority of deaths by suicide involve firearms, and nearly 90% of firearm suicides among children and youth involve a firearm stored in an unsecure manner in the home

Secure firearm storage gives time for suicidal crises to pass and protects firearm owners and their families.

