

News from Representative Mario Diaz-Balart


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July 1, 2014

Over the last several weeks, we have heard countless stories about the lack of quality care that our veterans are receiving from the VA healthcare system. These horror stories of abuse of power and mismanagement by certain individuals at the VA are absolutely unacceptable. Fellow Floridian and House Committee on Veterans Affairs Chairman Jeff Miller has done an outstanding job on leading the charge in working to protect our veterans, a job that is far from over as more issues are exposed.

Recently, the House passed two bills that aim to begin fixing these problems. H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act, gives the Secretary of the VA additional authority in order to hold senior staff accountable for their failures to provide the standard of care that veterans deserve. H.R. 4810, the Veteran Access to Care Act, helps veterans receive timely access to medical care by requiring the VA to offer non-VA care at the department's expense to any enrolled veteran who is unable to receive care within the waiting goal period or who lives more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility. Just because the VA is unable to provide timely care or a veteran might live miles away from a VA facility shouldn't mean that they cannot see a doctor within a reasonable period of time. I proudly voted in favor of both of these bills and was happy to see them pass in the House.

In addition to supporting the legislation on the House floor, I also joined my colleague Congressman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen to meet with senior officials from the Miami VA healthcare system. We called the meeting earlier this month to discuss the personal reports of veterans in South Florida and to see what is being done to correct these failures. It is imperative that the

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Miami VA quickly address the delays and incompetence that have plagued the hospital for years.



Congressman Diaz-Balart and Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen meet with senior officials from the Miami VA, 6-16-14.

I will do everything I can to make sure the VA is held accountable for their actions and that they work to fix these issues moving forward. Taking care of our veterans is not a bipartisan issue and I am glad to continue working alongside colleagues from both parties to work together on this problem.

As always, stay in touch on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#), or visit my [website](#) for any constituent services I am able to provide you with.

Warm Regards,
Mario Diaz-Balart
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