

# Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act Approved in House of Representatives

Source: NAHC, December 22, 2023

Earlier this month the US House of Representatives approved the *Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act*. Championed by Representatives Julia Brownley (D-CA) and Jack Bergman (R-MI) the legislation was passed by a vote of 414-5.

The *Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act* provides for enhanced home care services for veterans. At its core, the legislation seeks to provide critical financial support and resources to enhance access to essential care services, allowing individuals to receive necessary assistance while remaining in their homes.

Specifically the bill would:

- Increases the spending limit for noninstitutional care alternative programs from 65 percent to 100 percent of nursing home care expenses;
- Expands the availability of home and community-based alternative care programs to veterans in all VA medical facilities, including veterans in U.S. territories and Native veterans enrolled in IHS or tribal health programs;
- Mandates the development of a centralized website to distribute information and resources concerning home and community-based programs, aiding veterans and caregivers in assessing their eligibility;
- Directs the VA to evaluate staffing, resource requirements, accessibility, and other facets of the Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care and Caregiver Support Program Office to ensure proper service provision to veterans and caregivers;
- Establishes a trial initiative to offer home health aide services to veterans residing in regions facing a shortage of home health aides;
- Requires the VA to institute a smooth transition process (“warm handoff”) for veterans and caregivers who are discharged from or ineligible for the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

With passage in the House attention will now turn toward the Senate. Earlier this year the Senate Veterans Affairs committee held a markup and approved their version of the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act out of the committee meaning the next step in the legislative process is consideration by the full Senate. While no

imminent action is expected at this point in the Senate, NAHC will continue to work with Senators and advocate on the legislation.