



Ensuring Economic Opportunities for Veterans

Ensuring that our veterans have access to high-paying jobs high-quality housing is paramount. For far too long, leaders in Washington have let partisan squabbles prevent us from taking care of our veterans.

Since Rep. O'Halleran's time in office, funding for the VA has increased from \$179 billion in FY 2017 to \$259 billion in FY 2021. This increase in funding is coming with much needed reforms to improve veterans access to care, improve services provided by the VA, and improve the experience for all veterans.

Solar Vocational Education and Training for our Servicemembers (VETS) Act

- Congressman O'Halleran introduced the bipartisan Solar VETS Act to ensure that veterans are provided economic opportunities in a new, growing sector critical to Arizona's economy.
- The bill directs the Department of Energy to work with the Department of Defense to select military bases that will offer a workforce training program based on the number of eligible service members at the base and the viability of the nearby solar market. The program would:
 - Be open to active duty military personnel who will be released or discharged within six months
 - Provide hands-on instruction and assistance with resume and interview preparation
 - Include a certification exam to earn an entry-level credential for solar professionals
- This program would be cost-free for veterans and help as they transition to civilian life.

Legislation to Expand Eligibility to the Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program

- Congressman O'Halleran is working closely with the VA Committee to introduce a bill that would ensure that all veterans are able to access the HUD-VASH program, should they require it.
- Currently, Congress funds more housing vouchers than are claimed. One reason for this is because the VA currently has a shortage of counselors who are able to support veterans who may not need the mental health or wraparound services to access the program. These wait times can be up to six months.
- This legislation take a significant step toward ending veteran homelessness by addressing the VA bottleneck that delays many veterans from accessing this important program.