



Congressman Tom O'Halleran

Fighting for America's Veterans

Improving Benefits, Resources, and Access to Care

- Worked to secure \$243 billion in funding for the VA under the FY2021 budget, a 12 percent increase from the previous fiscal year, and a 37 percent increase from when O'Halleran began serving in Congress. Funding is used to support veterans and caregivers, expand mental health benefits, clear the backlog of disability claims, address veteran homelessness, and oversee the VA.
- Introduced the Fairness for Rural Veterans Act to give priority to rural areas when the VA is awarding grants for state veterans homes.
- Introduced the Solar VETS Act, legislation to help train and place veterans in high-skilled positions in the clean energy field.
- Saw more than 20 pieces of O'Halleran-backed legislation signed into law in the 116th Congress, including landmark bills that provided benefits to Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange, expanded mental health treatment and resources to help reduce veteran suicide, safeguarded student veterans' benefits, and helped pass the most a comprehensive package for women veterans in over a decade.
- Supported 17 bills to reduce veterans' suicide that became law in the 116th Congress, including legislation that provides free mental health stabilization care for many veterans experiencing an acute suicidal crisis.

Supporting Veterans During COVID-19

- Secured \$19.6 billion for the VA under the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.
- Funded an additional \$17 billion to the VA under the American Rescue Plan Act, including:
 - \$14.5 billion for COVID-19 related health care
 - \$1 billion for debt forgiveness related to copayments or other cost sharing
 - \$750 million in grants for veteran state homes to improve the living conditions of veteran long-term care patients
 - over \$260 million to address claims backlog; and
 - \$386 million to initiate a program that provides training and employment assistance during COVID-19 for unemployed Veterans to enter high demand occupations.
- Supported the SAVE LIVES Act, now signed into law, which expanded COVID-19 vaccine access for veterans, their spouses, and caregivers.

Serving Military and Veteran Families

- Co-led a provision to ensure that families of veterans who died of COVID-19 would receive full death benefits from the VA.
- Serves on the Women Veterans Task Force, a group which helps lead discussions and promote legislation on issues specific to women veterans of our armed forces.