



Improving Veterans Access to Health Care

Rep. O'Halleran has fought to improve the quality of and access to health care for our veterans. Veterans in rural and tribal communities must drive long distances and have grown accustomed to lesser care than those who live in more urban or suburban areas.

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.

MISSION Act

- Congressman O'Halleran helped advance the VA MISSION Act of 2018. This law makes dramatic improvements to how veterans receive their health care outside of VA facilities.
- This ensured that veterans in rural communities and those without immediate access to the VA health care system can receive their health care from community-based providers with fewer roadblocks.
 - Veterans may be eligible for community care if their average drive time to a VA medical facility exceeds 30 minutes for primary care and mental health care and 60 minutes for specialty care.
- The law contains additional improvements to ensure that veterans can access high quality health care regardless of their residence.

Construction of Rural Nursing Homes

- Through work with the VA, Congressman O'Halleran was integral in the VA approval of two new nursing homes for veterans in Flagstaff and Yuma.
- Each nursing home will have 80 beds available to aging veterans, a memory care unit, rehabilitation centers, and veteran benefit counseling. This will ensure that many older veterans are able to retire in communities where they reside and near their family and friends.

Fairness for Rural Veterans Act

- Congressman O'Halleran has introduced legislation that would amend the VA's priority list to ensure that rural communities are not disadvantaged when trying to construct a long-term care facility for veterans.
- Under current law, the Department of Veterans Affairs uses a priority list based on both demographics and need to determine rankings for projects to receive funding. This list does not take into account how far veterans and their families must travel, making it difficult for projects in rural communities to compete for funding.