



## **H.R. 8313 – End Veteran Homelessness Act**

Access to reliable housing is critical for the safety, health, and long-term success of our nation's veterans. For far too long, bureaucratic red tape has prevented veterans in the need of urgent assistance from receiving that help. In 2020, the number of veterans in shelters in Arizona increased by 10 percent. In July 2022, Congressman O'Halleran led legislation that ensure that veterans who seek assistance through the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program are able to receive that assistance. The bill was successfully marked up by the Veterans Affairs Committee on July 19, 2022 and it is expected to receive a full House vote in the coming weeks.

The legislation would:

- Amend the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program by removing the requirement that every veteran who is provided a voucher in HUD-VASH must be assigned to, and seen as needed by, a case manager.
- These case managers provide assistance to homeless veterans who have chronic mental illness or chronic substance use disorders.
- HUD-VASH has grown from a program that began with 10,000 vouchers to more than 100,000 vouchers.
- However, because there are shortages of case managers, the number of HUD-VASH vouchers has been stuck at or near 80,000 for the past several years, even as Congress continues to add new vouchers to the program.
- The legislation that we would introduce would change the requirement that a veteran served by HUD-VASH is only assigned a case manager if he or she is determined to require case management. The change would allow veterans to directly receive a HUD-VASH voucher without being subject to the bottleneck created by the VA case management requirement.
- It also would expand the pool of veterans potentially eligible for assistance through HUD-VASH to include those who are formerly homeless or at-risk of homelessness.
- Together, the committee believes these changes will allow more veterans to be served in HUD-VASH, reducing the number of homeless veterans and increasing the utilization of vouchers.