

Driver Reimbursement Increase for Veteran Equity Act (H.R. 1288/S. 599)



What does it do?

- ★ The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pays eligible veterans and caregivers for mileage and other travel expenses to and from approved health care appointments, but the rate of reimbursement is too low.
- ★ The **Driver Reimbursement Increase for Veteran Equity Act would tie veterans' mileage reimbursement to the rate government employees receive**, currently \$0.70 per mile, for using their personal vehicles for government business.
- ★ The legislation would also require reimbursement of travel expenses within 90 days of submission.



Why is it needed?

- ★ Fifteen years ago, Congress passed legislation establishing the minimum mileage reimbursement rate at \$0.41 per mile which, at the time, was comparable to rates federal employees were reimbursed for work-related travel.
- ★ Since that time, **VA's travel mileage reimbursement rate has remained stagnant, even while gas prices and other costs like auto insurance and vehicle maintenance have increased significantly.**
- ★ Increasing the reimbursement rate for veterans' travel expenses will improve their access to health care services and reduce their financial burden.