

Disabled Veterans Dignity Act (S. 3647)



What does it do?

- ★ The **Disabled Veterans Dignity Act** makes the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) current Bowel and Bladder program a statutory requirement and directs the department to standardize all processes, training, and procedures associated with it.
- ★ The legislation would clarify that participation in the program is a clinical decision, as well as reimbursement rates and frequency.
- ★ Veterans denied participation will have a review of that denial from one of the department's spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D) centers.



Why is it needed?

- ★ Neurogenic bladder and bowel dysfunction affects many veterans with SCI/D and can lead to severe complications.
- ★ Managing neurogenic bladder and bowel requires specialized attention, often necessitates substantial caregiver support, and is essential for maintaining veterans' health and well-being.
- ★ Veterans with SCI/D who qualify for VA's Bowel and Bladder program may receive that care through a home health agency, a family member, or an individually employed caregiver but the **current program is fraught with problems and is unevenly applied across the VA system.**
- ★ Timely reimbursement and the tax treatment of payments are the chief complaints of PVA members who must rely on bowel and bladder care to meet their needs.