

Veterans STAND Act (H.R. 6835/S. 3988)



What does it do?

- ★ Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to offer yearly preventative health assessments to veterans with spinal cord injuries and disorders (SCI/D).
This includes assessments of chronic pain management and reviewing the risk of comorbidities.
- ★ Ensures veterans are evaluated for advanced assistive technologies as part of these annual assessments, including powered mobility devices; exoskeletons; and spinal cord neuromodulation therapies that can restore movement, reduce pain, and improve daily functioning.
- ★ Directs the VA to consult with spinal cord specialists, clinicians, veterans service organizations, and medical device manufacturers to ensure VA policies reflect the latest advancements in SCI/D care.
- ★ Requires VA to report to Congress on the utilization and outcomes of assistive technologies and to integrate these evaluations into VA performance metrics to strengthen accountability and oversight.
- ★ The **Veterans STAND Act (H.R. 6835/S. 3988)** would ensure veterans with SCI/D receive consistent, comprehensive health evaluations and are considered for innovative treatments that could enhance their mobility, independence, and quality of life.



Why is it needed?

- ★ Regular, comprehensive reviews are essential to preserving the health, independence, and quality of life of veterans with SCI/D.
- ★ **Proactively assessing a veteran for assistive technology interventions preserves or augments function instead of waiting for a decline or injury to occur.**
- ★ Organizations like PVA are in the best position to advise the VA on programs, policies, and services related to the care of veterans with SCI/D.
- ★ Embedding the consideration of technological advances into VA's annual assessments will help more veterans regain function, stay connected to their communities, and live with greater dignity.