

Fighting for Veterans

As Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Jon relentlessly fights for Montana's nearly 100,000 veterans every day. Jon talks directly to Montana's heroes, and takes their ideas and concerns with him to the Senate – and gets them real results.

Toxic Exposure

As Chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Jon negotiated, wrote, and passed into law the bipartisan *PACT Act*, which is the largest expansion of benefits for veterans in decades. Jon's legislation delivers multiple generations of toxic-exposed veterans, including for thousands of Montanans, their earned health care and benefits.

Jon also led the years-long fight to pass legislation guaranteeing that Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans who were exposed to toxins like Agent Orange can access treatment and receive benefits from the VA. President Trump signed Jon's legislation in 2019.

Mental Health Care

Jon has worked arm-in-arm with Montana veterans to tackle insufficient mental health support at the VA. After hearing from Montanans, Jon introduced and passed bipartisan legislation signed by President Trump and named for a Montana Navy veteran, Commander John Scott Hannon. Jon's bill fortified the VA mental health workforce and bolstered rural veterans' access to care by increasing access to local and alternative treatment options.

Jon didn't stop there – he also added rural program centers in the VA to expand access to mental health care for veterans, and he successfully pushed the VA to streamline the hiring of mental health providers in rural America.

Jon understands that one veteran suicide is too many, which is why he created a program to provide federal funding for local prevention organizations. Jon also secured more than \$4 million for Montana organizations working to end veteran suicide through this program.

"I've always believed that we need to take care of our veterans when they come home – and if we can't do that, we shouldn't send them off to war to begin with. I'll keep fighting tooth and nail to hold the VA accountable and get our veterans the care and benefits they've earned..."

Jon Tester

Overhauling the Choice Program

Jon knew that the Veterans' Choice Program was a disaster for Montana veterans, which is why he fought to pass his bipartisan *VA MISSION Act*, signed by President Trump, which scrapped the Choice Program and replaced it with a program that cut government bureaucracy to improve access to care. But Jon hasn't stopped there – he is fighting for legislation that would build on the success of the *MISSION Act* and bolster the delivery of community care for veterans, especially in rural areas.

JON TESTER FOR U.S. SENATE



Expanding Access to Care and Benefits

Jon understands that in a rural state like Montana, access to quality care is critical. That's why he has been relentless in his push for more VA facilities, helping secure 12 new clinics across the state and the Southwest Montana Veterans Home in Butte. Jon also successfully urged the VA to deploy mobile Vet Centers to areas impacted by major flooding in 2022.

Jon is pushing the VA to expand care and capacity, especially in rural areas like Montana, including by fighting for his bipartisan legislation to ensure combat-injured veterans with less than 20 years of military service receive their full benefits. Jon also introduced bipartisan legislation to strengthen the VA's ability to quickly evaluate the medical connection between a veterans' medical condition and their service.

Accountability

Jon has led the fight to hold the VA accountable for its failures since he was first in the Senate. President Trump signed Jon's bipartisan VA Accountability and *Whistleblower Protection Act* into law, which has made it easier for the VA to fire and hold bad employees accountable. He also got bipartisan legislation signed into law that gives the VA Inspector General the power to subpoena former VA staffers and contractors so it can perform critical oversight

and get to the truth. Jon is fighting to ensure no veteran falls through the cracks, leading a push to completely overhaul the VA's electronic health records program and by authoring legislation to grant benefits claims for veterans whose military records are lost by the government.

Lowering Costs for Veterans

Jon understands that we need to make sure veterans' hard-earned benefits keep pace with higher costs of living. Jon's bipartisan *Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2023* increased compensation benefits for disabled veterans and military survivors.

Jon has also led the charge to protect rural veterans' access to care, including by directly and repeatedly calling on the VA to fix their system to cover travel costs for rural veterans and introducing his bipartisan *Road to Access Act* to require VA to automatically submit those travel claims.

No veteran should be forced to live without a roof over their head, and when thousands of veterans and servicemembers using VA home loans faced foreclosure due to the pandemic, Jon successfully fought to ensure the VA would pause foreclosures and allow them to stay in their homes. Since 2019, Jon has secured more than \$30.8 million in resources to fight veteran homelessness in Montana.

Women Veterans

With more women than ever serving in the Armed Forces, Jon is working relentlessly to ensure the VA does not leave them behind. Jon fought for and passed his bipartisan *MAMMO Act* to expand veterans' access to breast cancer screenings and cancer care, as well as legislation that bolster resources for women veterans facing homelessness, unemployment, health care needs, or who are survivors of military sexual trauma.



JON TESTER FOR U.S. SENATE

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