The Dole Act

The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act (Public Law 118-210) is comprehensive and transformative legislation that will improve the lives of veterans and their caregivers on several fronts.

The Dole Act impactful provisions:

* Streamline the disability claims process
* Expand excess to job training and employment opportunities
* Address the issue of veterans' homelessness
* Strengthen Mental Health services
* Ease burdens for aging and disabled veterans to receive at home care

The Dole Act will make significant improvements to current caregiver support programs within the Department of Veterans Affairs while expanding access to home and community-based services at all VA medical centers.

The legislation will also create a mental health care grant program to support family caregivers and increase the cap from 65% to 100% of the cost of nursing home care for veterans seeking non-institutional care alternatives.

The Dole Act includes several provisions related to improving access to and quality of community care, including requiring the VA to reach out to veterans about their community care options.

The Dole Act allows surviving spouses to maintain eligibility to use certain education benefits upon remarriage, , includes provisions to boost supportive housing grants and mandates that the VA take a closer look at dental care options for veterans. It also requires the VA to establish a 2-year dental care pilot program for enrolled veterans with ischemic heart disease.

Please share this information with your membership, Post’s and any veteran you know that might benefit from knowing about the Dole Act.

Ride Safe, George

George W. Smtih

ALRDOC Service Officer