

Rep. Ellen Tauscher Backs Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007

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Act Improves Care and Treatment for Injured American Soldiers

Washington, DC – Today, by a vote of 426-0 the House of Representatives passed the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007. Rep. Ellen Tauscher, an original co-sponsor of the legislation, applauded the bill's passage citing the improvements to the care and treatment of injured combat veterans included in the act. Rep. Tauscher has used her role on the House Armed Services Committee to advocate for better care for our returning troops.

The bill increases the amount case managers, advocates and counselors for wounded service members returning from combat overseas to help them get the care they need and to help navigate the military's health care bureaucracy. It also establishes a toll-free hotline for reporting deficiencies in medical facilities, and creates a new system to transfer more efficiently soldiers' medical records from the Defense Department to the Veterans' Affairs (VA) Department.

Rep. Tauscher issued the following statement regarding the passage of the act:

“The recent scandal at Walter Reed has shed a very disturbing light on the failures of our government to live up to their responsibilities to our troops. We are learning that these failures are much broader than one hospital in one part of the country. Congress needed to pass this legislation today to right a very shameful wrong.

The men and women who put their lives on the line everyday deserve to come home to the best hospitals, an efficient and respectful case-work system, and a support system that allows them to transition back as easily and as quickly as possible. Anything less signifies a failed commitment to the men and women of our Armed Services who have served and survived in the line of duty.”

Rep. Ellen Tauscher

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