

Kline Supports Bipartisan Legislation to Provide Choice for Veterans, Hold VA Accountable

WASHINGTON – Minnesota Congressman John Kline supported bipartisan veterans legislation that passed the U.S. House of Representatives this week to expand health care choices for veterans and hold the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) accountable by requiring bonuses collected under false pretenses be paid back in full.

“As I shared with Minnesota members of Disabled American Veterans last week, we must continue to hold the VA accountable, and empower our veterans to take charge of their health care,” said Kline, a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. “The bipartisan legislation I supported today gives more freedoms for our veterans in their health care decisions, and brings common sense reforms to the VA by requiring employees who collected a bonus under false pretenses to pay it back.”

The bipartisan legislation passed by the House this week includes:

- **The Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act** ([H.R. 294](#)) allows veterans to decide for themselves where and how to receive care, and provides a cost effective long-term care option for the VA. Under current law, the VA does not have the authority to pay for a veteran to receive care in a medical foster home, even if the veteran is eligible for VA-paid nursing home care. As a result, many service-connected veterans must pay out of pocket for care in a foster home, and many are unable to do so.
- **Legislation authorizing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recoup bonuses and awards paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs** ([H.R. 280](#)) allows the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to rescind any award or bonus paid to an employee of the VA. The bill requires that notice be given to the employee of the repayment, and the employee is afforded the opportunity to a hearing.

Congressman John Kline serves as the Chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee. He also serves on the House Armed Services Committee. He and his wife, Vicky, live in Burnsville.