

## **John Kline Helps Champion Veterans Legislation**

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WASHINGTON – Minnesota Congressman John Kline supported bipartisan legislation that passed the U.S. House of Representatives last evening ensuring our veterans have quality medical care, important job and training programs, and other benefits they have earned for their service to our country.

“One of our greatest priorities in Congress should be to ensure we keep our promises to those who served our country,” said Kline, a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps whose son has served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. “This legislation honors our commitment to our veterans and takes needed steps in cutting through red tape and bringing real accountability to the Veterans Administration.”

The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs legislation:

- Includes funding for mental health care, suicide prevention, traumatic brain injury treatment, homeless veteran programs, and rural health initiatives;
- Continues efforts to end the disability claims processing backlog by providing resources for the paperless claims processing system;
- Demands the timely and accurate exchange of medical data between the VA, the Department of Defense, and the private sector to ensure our veterans get the best medical care possible; and
- Increases oversight of taxpayer dollars at the VA by requiring reports on construction expenditures and savings, and forbidding changes in scope of construction projects.

Demanding accountability from the VA on behalf of our veterans has been a priority for Kline. After hearing from Minnesota veterans about unnecessarily lengthy delays in evaluation and treatment for those injured in service – a backlog with an average of 398 days – Kline in this Congress introduced bipartisan legislation – now law – to break through the bureaucratic red tape. “Congressman Kline’s efforts to streamline the current medical evaluation delays will greatly benefit Minnesota Servicemembers,” said Maj. Gen. Richard C. Nash, Adjutant General of the Minnesota National Guard, after the bill passed the House. “This important legislation will be a key part of improving the process of how our Servicemembers will receive medical care.”

John Kline serves on the House Armed Services Committee. He also is Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. In 2012, AMVETS honored Kline at a ceremony with the prestigious “Silver Helmet Award” for his “loyalty and dedication to America’s veterans.” He and his wife, Vicky, live in Burnsville.

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