

## John Kline Supports Bipartisan Legislation to Ensure Veterans Receive Benefits Earned

Washington, May 1

WASHINGTON – Minnesota Congressman John Kline supported bipartisan legislation which passed the U.S. House of Representatives this week to provide our veterans and active-duty service members with benefits they earned including access to quality health care, and job training while taking steps to increase oversight and accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

“Through service and sacrifice our veterans have safeguarded the promise of liberty our country was founded on,” said Kline, a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps. “I was pleased to support this balanced, bipartisan legislation to honor the commitment we’ve made to our veterans and their families by improving VA claims processing and access to quality health care, addressing homelessness among our veterans, and continuing robust oversight over the VA.”

To take steps to provide further access to health care for veterans Kline supported the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act which became law in 2014 and establishes a Veterans Choice Card benefit program allowing eligible veterans who are unable to secure an appointment at a VA medical facility within 30 days or live more than 40 miles from the nearest VA medical facility to receive non-VA care.

The Minneapolis VA Medical Center Director conveyed to Kline delays veterans are experiencing through the VA Health Net website. The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill (H.R. 2029) provides \$250 million to improve access for more than 3 million veterans living in rural areas including Minnesotans in the 2nd Congressional District.

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H.R. 2029 would also:

- Increase funding for veterans programs by more than 5 percent to ensure our veterans receive the benefits they have earned;
- Improves and accelerates the VA claims processing system and includes steps to reduce the backlog; and
- Provides greater oversight to ensure the VA is providing better care for our veterans while responsibly utilizing taxpayer money.

H.R. 2029 also provides for construction and renovation of our military infrastructure including quality housing and hospitals for our active duty servicemen and women.

In addition to serving on the House Armed Services Committee, Kline serves as the Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. In 2012, AMVETS honored Kline with the prestigious “Silver Helmet Award” for his “loyalty and dedication to America’s veterans.” In 2008, the National Guard Bureau honored Kline with one of its highest civilian awards, a “Heritage Painting” for his efforts on behalf of all veterans. Kline and his wife, Vicky, live in Burnsville.