

## Kline to Introduce Bill to Keep Faith with Veterans, Reform VA Billing

Burnsville, Aug 27

BURNSVILLE – Minnesota Congressman John Kline will be introducing legislation that will protect veterans from erroneous and untimely billing practices by the Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA). Kline's legislation is in response to frustration and confusion caused by the VA when it billed Minnesota and Wisconsin veterans this summer for health care received up to five years ago. Kline's bill would give the Secretary of the VA flexibility to waive co-payment requirements for veterans if the VA erred sending bills in a timely manner.

"We owe a great deal to those who have proudly served our nation, and they deserve more than unexpected, outdated bills because the VA failed to notify veterans of payments in a timely manner," said Kline, a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps whose son has served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. "I look forward to introducing legislation in September to protect veterans' rights, hold the VA accountable, and ensure promises made are promises kept."

This summer, Kline was notified the VA discovered unbilled co-pay amounts for inpatient care provided to Minnesota and Wisconsin veterans over a five-year period. Upon learning of this, Kline reached out to colleagues in Minnesota and Wisconsin, and led a letter to express outrage to the VA. Kline also spoke with VA Sec. McDonald personally to share his frustration and press for a quick resolution for these veterans.

Kline's legislation would:

- Give the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the authority to waive a co-payment requirement if the VA erred in not sending out the bill in a timely manner ; and
- Require the VA to inform veterans of their rights to payment plans and waivers if the VA does not meet billing timelines based on the veteran's mode of care.

*"I look forward to introducing legislation in September to protect veterans rights, hold the VA accountable, and ensure promises made are promises kept. "*

Kline recently voted on additional bipartisan legislation to keep faith with our veterans which passed the House.

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

###