

VA**U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs**

News Release

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Sep. 9, 2020**Secretary Wilkie Joins Bipartisan Group of Senators Urging House Action on Veterans Suicide Prevention Legislation**

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie today released the following statement after a bipartisan group of more than 30 senators [called on House leaders to pass S. 785](#), the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act, which would expand mental health resources for Veterans both inside and outside VA.

“The Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act is an honest and bipartisan solution to an issue that demands Congress’ immediate attention. The bill would boost care at VA facilities by expanding in-person and telehealth mental health services and allowing Guardsmen and Reservists to receive counseling at VA Vet Centers across the country. It would also expand the amount of non-VA community resources available to Veterans, wherever they may live, a key component of President Trump’s [President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide](#) (PREVENTS) initiative. The bill passed the Senate unanimously and we call on the House to give it the timely attention and bipartisan support it deserves.” – **Secretary Robert Wilkie**