

# Sense of the House

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House</SUBJECT><COMM>HMLV30</COMM></TARGET>



# Alaska State Legislature

House of Representatives

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Official Business

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Tuck, Chair  
House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs

FROM: Crystaline Jones, Chief Clerk *cj*

DATE: May 3, 2017

SUBJECT: Sense of the House Referral

The Speaker referred the following Sense of the Alaska House of Representatives by Representatives Eastman, Wilson, Sullivan-Leonard, Rauscher, Reinbold, Tilton, Saddler, Millett, Johnston, Kopp, Chenault, Johnson and Talerico to the Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs for consideration.

The Sense of the House is attached for your use.

Attachments as noted:



Eastman

5/2/17

Wilson

SULLIVAN LEONARD

George Rauscher

Lora Reinbold

Cathleen

SANDLER

Millett

SENSE OF THE HOUSE

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

VETERANS CHOICE 2.0

1 It is the sense of the House that the recent extension of the Veteran's Choice Program, John  
 2 approved by Congress and now signed by the President, is a small but important step to  
 3 ensuring that our veterans receive the timely access to healthcare that they have been  
 4 promised. While designed to improve access to care, and permit veterans on waiting lists  
 5 for longer than 30 days and who have to travel more than 40 miles, to pursue care at non-  
 6 VA facilities, the program was previously mired in red tape and has not always delivered  
 7 care to veterans in a timely manner, resulting in even some veterans who were able to  
 8 negotiate the red tape and receive approval under the Choice Program to abandon that  
 9 approval and pursue other options for care. The current effort by VA Secretary Shulkin to  
 10 reduce red tape and make the VA more responsive to veterans' needs, Veterans Choice  
 11 2.0, is a step in the right direction, especially efforts to reduce the high rate of suicide  
 12 among our nation's military veterans.

Kopp

Chenault

Shugart

Talerico