



The best information to date shows that community care is likely more expensive than VA's. To offset added systemic costs for Choice care it is likely that some current or future veterans would no longer be served, and/or charged higher deductibles and out of pocket expenses. Reducing some veterans' benefits to pay for Choice has already been proposed in the FY18 VA budget.

There is a myth that the only way the VA will be motivated to excel is if it is forced to compete with the private sector for its customers. This in spite of the fact that reams of studies show that the VA - without relying on market based incentives. - already delivers care that is equal or superior to that provided in the private sector. Serving veterans is what motivates VA employees, and with convincing effect.

### **We recommend other considerations for Choice redesign:**

- ◆ Build VA capacity first.
- ◆ Guarantee the ability to coordinate and integrate care.
- ◆ Strengthen the VA brand.



## **Fighting for Veterans Healthcare**

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[www.ffvhc.org](http://www.ffvhc.org)

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We are a not for profit, grass roots organization.

**Donations would be greatly appreciated.**

Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, we are hoping to build our outreach across the nation to get veterans more involved in the health care system that is under attack by Koch Brother's funded organizations, and others who have visions of all these tax dollars going to the private health care corporations they have in their portfolios.

Please go to our web site to donate and keep us fighting for veteran healthcare.

**Donations are tax deductible,**



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**The Veterans Health Administration is under attack by groups who are for eliminating government programs and pushing the idea that only the private sector 'works'.**

Legislative proposals in Congress threaten to drastically change how veterans receive healthcare.

While giving healthcare options to veterans sounds reasonable on the surface, this misguided proposal alters the existing Veterans Choice Program in crucial ways that will cripple and ultimately dismantle the VA healthcare system

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The VHA far outperforms the private sector on preventive and outpatient care, and performs equally well on other measures (according to independent RAND Corp evaluations). In contrast to the fragmented care that characterizes the broader healthcare system, the VHA offers comprehensive integrated care. More importantly, for over 70 years, the American taxpayer's investment in the VHA has created a system whose providers have amassed great expertise in the specific problems of those who served in the military. Even a partially privatized veterans healthcare system would not be able to replicate this kind of expertise. It would also cost more, which would likely lead to fewer veterans being eligible for care in order to balance the VA budget.

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The primary VHA mission is to care for the eight million eligible men and women who served their country. However, the VHA does far more than meet the unique needs of veterans:

- ◆ It supports research that has pioneered new treatments and improved patient safety for all Americans.
- ◆ Trains the majority of US doctors, nurses and other health care professionals.

Due to shortages of staff and surges in veteran enrollment, there will be instances when the VA should utilize private sector partners to ensure veterans get timely care. **But this needs to be done by using supplemental resources, not at the expense of existing services, and must be carefully coordinated with VHA providers.** Opinion polls consistently show that most veterans — and their advocacy organizations — want the VHA to be improved, not replaced.

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## Fighting For Veterans

**Healthcare** is a group of veterans, health care providers, health care experts and citizens who believe the VHA needs to be strengthened and reformed, NOT dismantled and privatized. Our mission is to (a) provide a platform for voices of veterans who want to preserve and improve VHA care, (b) disseminate objective research and information about VHA care, and (c) inform veterans and the public about imminent threats to veterans healthcare, including what would be lost if the VHA vanished.

**Did you know?** You need to be over 50% service connected disabled to be eligible for free VHA care, or your household income must be below VA's National Income or Geographical-Adjusted Thresholds? Currently approximately \$35K/yr. Many veterans aren't eligible for care or they are subject to co-pays and may have to go to another provider for non-service connected illnesses. There is not one proposal to increase access to those veterans. The American people think all veterans deserve healthcare, but even the VHA is far from providing care to all veterans.