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## **Shuster Cosponsors Veterans Travel Tax Relief Act** ***Legislation Provides Tax Deduction for Travel to VA Medical Centers***

Washington, D.C.—Congressman **Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that he has cosponsored legislation targeted at helping veterans in rural areas deal with the rising price of gas when traveling to and from medical appointments at VA medical centers.

“Some of our rural veterans spend over an hour by car to get to their doctor’s appointment at their nearest VA Medical Center,” Shuster said. “Many veterans in the 9<sup>th</sup> district experience this commute on a regular basis and they shouldn’t be forced to cancel appointments because they can’t afford the gas it takes to get them to the doctor.”

The “Veterans Travel Tax Relief Act” would allow a veteran who lives more than 25 miles from the nearest VA Medical Center to receive up to \$400 in tax deductions that will help compensate for travel expenses when receiving treatment of their service connected disability.

Additionally, current federal law only reimburses veterans a mere 28 cents per mile and only covers fuel costs. The “Veterans Travel Relief Act” goes further by allowing eligible veterans to deduct fuel, food, lodging and ambulance service from their taxes. To qualify for the benefits included in this legislation, a veteran must:

- Live 25 miles outside of the VA Medical Center where receiving treatment.
- Travel only for treatment, examination, or surgery of a service connected disability.
- Have a yearly income less than \$75,000 or \$150,000 for a family.

“This legislation addresses the real life impact gas prices have on the American people,” Shuster added. “I will work with my colleagues to make sure this important legislation passes the House.”

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