

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 18, 2013

Help Delay the Obamacare Individual Mandate for Our Nation's Veterans

Co-sponsor the "Fairness for America's Heroes Act"

Current Co-sponsors: Benishek, Coffman, Cook, Fleming, Franks, Gohmert, Kingston,
Neugebauer, Nugent, Posey, Roe, Weber, Wittman, Yoder, Yoho

Dear Colleague:

Much like the individual and employer mandate bills the House passed earlier this year, our nation's veterans and heroes deserve a choice to delay the disastrous implementation of Obamacare. I recently introduced H.R. 2876, the Fairness for America's Heroes Act of 2013, which would provide a one year delay of the individual requirement under Obamacare for our nation's veterans. Before forcing our nation's heroes into a health care plan that is convoluted and complex, my legislation will offer the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) a one year delay that would guard our veterans from the uncertainty of the implementation of Obamacare.

On April 24th, the VA testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) on their preparation and any effects that Obamacare might have on the department and veterans themselves. In this testimony, it was discovered that the VA is simply not prepared for the implementation.

During the hearing, the VA testified to an expected "net enrolled increase" of 66,000 veterans, however, it remains unclear what data VA used to determine the likelihood of this increase and whether new health care options that could be available to some veterans will impact their health care behaviors, enrollment, and utilization of the VA health care system. Moreover, there are issues regarding a proposed IRS rule allowing a veteran who is eligible but not enrolled in the VA health care system to receive a premium tax credit, creating an administrative incentive not to enroll certain veterans into the VA system. Additionally, VA has several new IRS reporting and data requirements and it is unknown whether VA's current Information Technology systems are capable of fulfilling these burdensome reporting requirements.

Less than six months away from the full implementation of Obamacare, there is widespread confusion between VA, uninsured veterans, and their families about how this law will impact their lives, futures and health care decisions. Simply delaying the implementation of Obamacare for veterans will not solve its underlying problem as a nation, but it will add greater pressure to

the VA to prepare and implement a clear plan that will help the needs for veterans and their families as they prepare for their future health care needs.

I urge you to join me by supporting this legislation that is crucial to serving our nation's heroes by becoming a co-sponsor of H.R. 2876. If you have any questions or wish to become a co-sponsor please contact Jordan Ballard in my office at Jordan.Ballard@mail.house.gov (202.225.6105)

Sincerely,



Bill Flores
Member of Congress