

CONGRESSWOMAN



MAXINE DEXTER M.D.

OREGON'S 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The Every Veteran Housed Act

In 2009, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) declared their commitment to ending veteran homelessness. Since then, federal investments have cut veteran homelessness in half. However, there are still far too many veterans who are unable to access the housing and support they need. Last year alone, nearly 34,000 veterans across the country, including more than 1,400 in Oregon, were without a home.

The *Every Veteran Housed Act* would expand the technical definition of “veteran” for the purposes of homelessness assistance to streamline access and remove unnecessary barriers to homelessness programs at VA to get more veterans into stable housing. This bill:

- **Creates consistent eligibility standards across all VA homelessness programs:** In recent years, Congress has expanded eligibility for certain VA homelessness programs (e.g., HUD-VASH), but not others, creating arbitrary and unnecessary barriers to veterans accessing the full scope of homelessness services offered by VA. This bill brings eligibility standards for legal, vocational, and rehabilitation programs into alignment with all other VA homelessness programs to streamline access.
- **Extends access to VA homelessness programs to National Guard and Reserve components:** Historically, National Guard and Reserve components have been denied access to critical VA homelessness assistance, despite their honorable service to our country. This bill rights that wrong by ensuring these servicemembers also have access to the full scope of VA homelessness services.

No veteran should be living on the street. This *Every Veteran Housed Act* is a critical step in delivering on our commitment to ending veteran homelessness in this country. Together, we will ensure that *every* person who has served gets access to the benefits they have earned and deserve.