

Knowing of your interest in veterans issues, I wanted to inform you that I recently cosponsored [H.R. 575](#), the HEALTHY Vets Act of 2011. This legislation would improve access to health care for veterans living in rural areas by requiring the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to contract with private physicians to provide medical services for such veterans on a case-by-case basis. By requiring the VA to take this action whenever cost-effective, H.R. 575 would help ensure that a larger number of veterans in rural communities have local access to primary care and other important services. As you may know firsthand, too many Northern Californian veterans currently have to travel long distances for their care at great time and expense. I will continue to work in Congress to reduce this hardship on local veterans.

[Share your thoughts](#)