

Congressman Mike Quigley

Fiscal Year 2015 programmatic for the Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies

\$20 million for suicide prevention and outreach for the National Guard and Army Reserves.

Explanation: According to the Veterans Administration, an estimated 18 veterans complete suicide every day – over 6,500 every year. These funds will support essential intervention programs that will help bring down the number of suicides among our service members.

\$500,000,000 for VA, VHA, Homeless Veteran Programs

Explanation: The Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program promotes housing stability among homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. This prevention strategy is effective because it engages and partners with community non-profits who assist very low-income veterans and their families by providing a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability. The program is authorized through the Veterans Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-387). According to the VA's fiscal year 2015 budget justification, the VA awarded SSVF grants to community agencies in all 50 states. More than 60,000 veterans and their family members received supportive services to help them stay in or return to housing. Approximately 84 percent of those discharged from SSVF exited into permanent housing. The requested 2015 funding of \$500 million will allow VA to significantly enhance these services in 2016, allowing SSVF to serve approximately 200,000 veterans and their families.

\$1 billion for VA homelessness assistance programs

Explanation: The VA is committed to ending Veteran homelessness, and it is crucial that the committee support this important goal. In conjunction with comprehensive health care and job training programs, we can help our veterans get back on their feet and lead productive civilian lives.

\$306,000,000 for VA, VHA, Veteran Caregiver Program

Explanation: The VA's Veterans Caregiver Program provides comprehensive assistance, including caregiver training and a stipend, to post 9/11 veterans seriously injured in the line of duty. Through the program, family caregivers receive training in traditional classroom settings, in a workbook format, and in an online format. More than 13,500 family caregivers have completed training since the program launched in 2011. In addition, VA caregiver support coordinators located at all VA medical centers serve as the clinical experts on caregiver issues and are knowledgeable of both VA and non-VA support services and benefits available for Veterans of all eras and their family caregivers. The caregiver program was authorized through the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-163).