

For Immediate Release



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AMVETS National Leadership Responds to Veteran Suicide Legislation

Washington D.C., April 18, 2019 – American Veterans (AMVETS) National Executive Director Joe Chenelly and Chief Advocacy Officer Sherman Gillums Jr. commend House Veterans Affairs Committee member Rep. Max Rose, D-N.Y., for proposing legislation today, calling for “substantive data” from the VA regarding the trend in veteran suicides at VA facilities.

“AMVETS is pleased that Congressman Rose has stepped up to the plate as we search for solutions to this national crisis,” said Chenelly. “Unfortunately, as we’ve stated before, we have reached an epidemic of crisis proportions. We have veterans committing suicides in VA parking lots, shooting themselves in facilities, and lighting themselves on fire in clinic doorways. While we remain unaware of just how many veterans take their lives at VA medical centers, there is one thing that is apparent: this is some form of a last resort protest regarding the VA system failing them.”

In the legislation, Rose states that “getting this data more quickly and thoroughly would guide Congress’ efforts in understanding this crisis and preventing these tragedies. We must ensure all veterans have the services they need when they need them, plain and simple.”

“The more data we can gather to identify trends and determine where we are falling short, the better,” said Chenelly. “We look forward to working with Congressman Rose to get this legislation passed and enforced, so that we can start getting answers.”

AMVETS is the nation’s largest and oldest Congressionally-chartered veterans service organization that is open to and fights for all veterans who served honorably,

including reservists & guardsmen. AMVETS has been a nonpartisan advocate for veterans and their families for more than 70 years. amvets.org

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