



**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH
ASSEMBLY SUBCOMMITTEE ON WOMEN VETERANS**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Increasing Veteran Access to Mental Health Services

PURPOSE: To examine ways to increase veterans' access to mental health services

Wednesday
November 12, 2025
11 a.m.
Huntington Town Board Meeting Room
100 Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743

ORAL TESTIMONY WILL BE BY INVITATION ONLY

The Rand Corporation's 2024 report "Understanding Veterans In New York: a Needs Assessment of Veterans Recently Separated from the Military," which analyzed responses from 1,122 New York veterans, found that many experience mental health challenges, including post-traumatic stress disorder and suicidal thoughts; however, 21% of those surveyed said they are not receiving the mental health care they need. The report also noted that addressing mental health challenges in a manner reflective of the unique circumstances of military service proves difficult, with 39% of veterans saying they believe mental health treatment is ineffective. Lack of childcare and transportation, high treatment costs, and stigma were also cited as barriers by veterans in accessing necessary mental health care. The purpose of this hearing is to examine ways to increase veterans' access to mental health services, including examining the role that existing resources like suicide prevention funding and peer support programs, such as the PFC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program, can play in addressing these challenges.

Persons invited to present pertinent testimony to the Committees at the above hearing should complete and return the enclosed reply form as soon as possible. It is important that the reply form be fully completed and returned so that persons may be notified in the event of emergency postponement or cancellation.

Oral testimony will be limited to ten minutes' duration. In preparing the order of witnesses, the Committees will attempt to accommodate individual requests to speak at particular times in view of special circumstances. These requests should be made on the attached reply form or communicated to Committee staff as early as possible. Ten copies of any prepared testimony should be submitted at the hearing registration desk. The Committees would appreciate advance receipt of prepared statements.

Attendees and participants at any legislative public hearing should be aware that these proceedings are video recorded. Their likenesses may be included in any video coverage shown on television or the internet. In order to further publicize these hearings, please inform interested parties and organizations of the Committee's interest in hearing testimony from all sources.

In order to meet the needs of those who may have a disability, the Assembly, in accordance with its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of disability, as well as the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), has made its facilities and services available to all individuals with disabilities. For individuals with disabilities, accommodations will be provided, upon reasonable request, to afford such individuals access and admission to Assembly facilities and activities.

**Steve Stern
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on
Veterans' Affairs**

**Jo Anne Simon
Member of Assembly
Chair
Committee on
Mental Health**

**Pamela J. Hunter
Member of Assembly
Chair
Subcommittee on
Women Veterans**

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons invited to present testimony at the public hearing on Increasing Veteran Access to Mental Health Services are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail, email or fax it to:

Nathaniel Haley
Committee Assistant
Assembly Standing Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Room 520 – Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: haleyn@nyassembly.gov
Phone: (518) 455-4363
Fax: (518) 455-5182

- ☐ I plan to attend the following public hearing on Increasing Veteran Access to Mental Health Services to be conducted by the Assembly Standing Committees on Veterans' Affairs and Mental Health, and the Subcommittee on Women Veterans on November 12, 2025.
- ☐ I have been invited to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to ten minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- ☐ I will address my remarks to the following subjects:

- ☐ I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- ☐ I would like to be added to the Committee mailing list for notices and reports.
- ☐ I would like to be removed from the Committee mailing list.
- ☐ I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. **Please specify the type of assistance required:** _____

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX TELEPHONE: _____