



Jim Himes: An Advocate for Veterans and Military Families

“There is little we can do, and even less we can say, that can fully honor the sacrifice America’s service members have made. But we can start with a profound and heartfelt thank you. And we can follow through with the love, care, and support that our military families need before, during, and after deployment.” –Rep. Jim Himes

Improving Health Care for Veterans and Their Families

One of Jim’s top priorities is ensuring veterans have access to the health care benefits they earned in service to our country. Jim understands that mental health is linked to physical health and has fought to ensure soldiers have access to high quality comprehensive care both while they are serving and when they return home.

- Jim supported legislation that protects military families from increases in TRICARE co-pays and deductibles
- Jim played a major role in ensuring that military families do not have co-payments for preventive services.
- Jim authored an amendment to ensure soldiers receive mental health screenings upon return from deployment and has fought to improved facilities and services to treat mental health illness.
- Jim fought to improve women veteran’s health care, including seven days of care for newborn children and better treatment for sexual trauma.

Improving Lives of Military Families

Jim has fought to improve the quality of life for military families, including pushing for s military pay raises and policies that make it easier for service members’ spouses to find career opportunities when a couple or family is relocated.

- Since Jim has taken office, he has always supported legislation that provides pay increases to service members.
- Jim helped pass legislation that provided \$1.3 billion in tax cuts for military personnel and families.
- Jim joined his colleagues to authorize the Department of Defense to pay a portion of a second family separation allowance when both military are deployed at the same time.
- Jim ensured that military spouses have access to tuition assistance and training opportunities in professions that can be retained as they move to different bases.

Improving the Transition to Civilian Life

It is a complex and difficult process to transition from military to civilian life. Jim has passed legislation for continuing education and job training to make this transition easier and allow veterans to return to civilian life with the opportunities they have earned and deserve.

- Jim helped pass a \$2,400 tax credit for businesses that hire veterans.
- Jim is helping implement the new GI bill, which provides full-tuition scholarships for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans to attend college.
- Jim voted for the *End Veteran Homelessness Act*, which enhances programs to help veterans out of homelessness and gives special attention to unique needs of female veterans and veterans with children. He has also helped secure local funding for programs that train veterans for professional opportunities in emerging industries, like making homes more energy efficient.