

## Veterans' Health Subcommittee Passes Bill Sponsored by Congressman Cazayoux

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Bill seeks to prevent the VA from charging co-payments for veterans with catastrophic disabilities

WASHINGTON, DC- Congressman Don Cazayoux passed a bill out of the subcommittee on Veterans' Health today. H.R. 6445 seeks to prevent the Veterans' Administration from charging co-payments for veterans who are catastrophically disabled. The bill now awaits mark-up in the full Veterans' Affairs Committee.

"It is too often the case that veterans who are catastrophically disabled are some of the poorest of the poor," Congressman Cazayoux said. "It is especially unfair to charge them co-payments at VA Hospitals. This bill will eliminate that unfairness and appropriately honor our veterans who have sacrificed for our country."

The catastrophically disabled are defined as those with a permanent, severely disabling injury, disorder, or disease that compromises their ability to carry out the activities of daily living. This includes veterans who suffer with, among other conditions, spinal cord injuries, stroke, diseases such as Parkinson's and ALS, and multiple amputees.

Over the 4th of July work week, Congressman Cazayoux conducted the first meeting of his Veterans' Advisory Council, composed of over 20 veterans from the 6th District. One of the major concerns for the Council was veterans' health care, especially Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and TRICARE reforms.

The Veterans' Health subcommittee also passed bills that would allow for highly rural veterans to receive care at non-VA facilities, expand counseling services for families of veterans receiving non-service connected treatment, and direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop and implement a comprehensive policy for veterans' pain management. All are expected to be considered in the full committee next week.

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