



LEAGUE of UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, has supported military veterans for nearly 100 years. We've advocated for key legislation like The PACT Act and The Brandon Act to ensure service members receive the care and benefits they deserve. LULAC is committed to advancing the wellbeing of all veterans by advocating for access to education, affordable housing, healthcare, and other essential services.

The Veterans Foreign Medical Coverage Equality and Modernization Act

Introduction

As of 2025, 80,631 unique veterans have enrolled in the Foreign Medical Program (FMP) since the 1990s. In the last six years, 14,176 veterans have used the program, with 70.21% being 100% permanently and totally disabled. The program costs an average of \$3,382 per active participant, with total reimbursements in FY2024 reaching \$128.7 million. While CHAMPVA provides comprehensive healthcare for dependents of 100% disabled veterans, the FMP only covers service-related conditions, meaning veterans abroad do not receive full medical coverage like their dependents.



Reasons to Support

Equitable Healthcare Coverage:

The legislative change ensures that 100% P&T-rated veterans living abroad receive VA FMP coverage for both service-connected and non-service-connected conditions, aligning their benefits with CHAMPVA.

Cost-Effective Implementation:

The expansion in coverage will be financially balanced by savings of up to \$20 million per year through the modernization of VA FMP payment and processing systems.

Improves Health Outcomes and Saves Lives: Reduce 5–8 month delays that worsened during the pandemic, prevent medication disruptions, and expand access to timely, life-saving treatment for veterans regardless of location.

Status

On January 15, 2025, Representative Nick LaLota (R-NY) introduced a bill in the House, which was subsequently referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the same day. The legislation is co-sponsored by Representatives Susie Lee (D-NV), Veronica Escobar (D-TX), and Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ).

Conclusion

The bill requires the VA to provide hospital care and medical services abroad to veterans with a permanent and total service-connected disability if eligibility criteria are met. Care must align with U.S. medical standards, prescriptions must be FDA-approved, and reimbursements must be available via direct deposit. Additionally, the VA must upgrade its mobile applications for digital submission and real-time tracking of FMP registration and reimbursement claims. Improving access and efficiency for veterans who have served our nation with courage and resilience will uplift our country and honor their sacrifice.

Version: February 22, 2026