

December 11, 2025

The Honorable Jon Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Urgent Request for Floor Consideration of the SAVES Act (S. 1441 / H.R. 2605)

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries,

We, the undersigned organizations representing service-dog trainers, veteran service-dog providers, and veteran advocates across the United States, write to strongly urge swift floor consideration of the *Service Dogs Assisting Veterans Act of 2025 (SAVES)* Act, S. 1441 and H.R. 2605.

Every day, veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, and other service-related conditions face barriers to obtaining trained service dogs that could dramatically improve their safety, stability, and quality of life. Service dogs are not a luxury -- they are a clinically supported, life-changing tool that reduces anxiety, improves daily functioning, interrupts crisis behaviors, and helps veterans reintegrate into their families and communities.

The *SAVES* Act represents a bipartisan, practical, and urgently needed step forward in exploring alternative treatment methods for these epidemic diagnoses. It modernizes existing VA policy by authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand service-dog benefits and support veterans who rely on them for mental health conditions -- even though mounting evidence has demonstrated their effectiveness. The legislation provides a durable, transparent framework that prioritizes accredited training standards, veteran protection, and public accountability.

Our organizations serve veterans who have been failed repeatedly by a system that moves too slowly and excludes too many. We see firsthand the difference that a trained service dog can make, not just for the veteran, but for families, caregivers, and communities that bear the weight of ongoing trauma, crisis, and instability. Veterans deserve access to every proven resource that can help them recover and thrive and this bill equips VA with the authority to do precisely that.

We respectfully ask you to use the full power of your leadership positions to ensure that S. 1441 and H.R. 2605 are scheduled for floor consideration during this session. Veterans have waited long enough. This legislation is bipartisan, cost-effective, and grounded in the lived experiences of those it seeks to support.

On behalf of the veterans we serve and the service-dog providers who stand ready to meet the need, we urge you to advance this bill to final passage.

Respectfully,

The American Legion

K9 for Warriors

Air Force Sergeant Association

Canines for Service

DAV

Fleet Reserve Association

Hawaii Fi-Do

Hero Dogs

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA)

Non Commissioned Officers Association

Operation Freedom Paws

Paws and Stripes

Paws Assisting Veterans

Paws for Purple Hearts

paws4people

Paralyzed Veterans of America

Soldier's Best Friend

Student Veterans of America

The Independence Fund

USAA

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Vietnam Veterans of America

Warrior Canine Connection