

Open the VA to ALL World War II Veterans - Those who made the Greatest Generation truly great are nearly gone. According to VA's 2021 statistics, of the 16 million U.S. veterans who served during World War II, less than four hundred thousand remain. Most of these veterans are already using VA services – The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics notes that in 2016 VA's benefits utilization rate for male World War II veterans was 73.6% and 67.3% for female veterans.

You can recognize these remaining heroes with actions far more meaningful than words. The Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996 exempted all veterans who served during the Mexican Border Period and World War I from the means test required to enter the VA health care system. It is time to do the same for our World War II veterans.

The American Legion has spoken loudly in support of this proposal. Delegates at our 2017 National Convention in Reno, Nev., unanimously passed a resolution calling for an amendment to the 1996 law which would open access for WWII veterans.

The *WWII Veterans Hospital and Medical Eligibility Act* would provide VA health benefits to every veteran of World War II, without bureaucratic meddling.

Open the VA to ALL World War II Veterans (sample letter)

As your constituent, I am writing to you about an issue that is very important to me: making sure all WWII veterans can access VA healthcare, without being subjected to means testing, created long after their service that has blocked care for far too many WWII veterans.

Thousands of WWII veterans that have previously received care and services from the VA are no longer able to receive those same services because of means-testing implemented in 1996.

Congress has already exempt veterans from the Mexican border period and World War I from the means-testing requirement, and now more than ever it is critical to exempt World War II veterans in this time of need. Our Greatest Generation is also the most at-risk generation in this global pandemic, and we owe a duty to those who have borne the battle to provide them with the healthcare benefits they have earned and deserve.

I along with the nearly 2 million members of The American Legion ask that you support S.1040 today.