**Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2023 or the Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act**

The following is a summary of the Dole Act, which was signed into law on January 2, 2025, by President Biden. Please share with your Post’s and any Veteran you know that is currently receiving or needs these services.

This bill addresses home care and caregiver programs provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Under the bill, the cost of providing non-institutional alternatives to nursing home care may not exceed the cost that would have been incurred if a veteran had been furnished VA nursing home care, unless the VA determines that a higher cost is in the best interest of the veteran. (Under current law, these expenditures are limited to 65% of the cost.)

Among other requirements, the VA must

* establish a partnership with the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly in certain areas to furnish non-institutional alternatives to nursing home care.
* implement various programs (e.g., the Veteran Directed Care program) to expand access to home and community-based services.
* provide specified support and benefits to caregivers of certain disabled veterans.
* implement a pilot program to provide homemaker and home health aide services to veterans who reside in communities with a shortage of home health aides
* ensure the availability of home and community-based services for Native American veterans.

For veterans or family caregivers who are discharged from the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, a caregiver support coordinator must provide for a personalized transition to an appropriate program.

The Veterans Health Administration must review programs administered through the Office of Geriatric and Extended Care to ensure consistency in program management, eliminate service gaps at the medical center level, and ensure the availability of and access to home and community-based services.

If you know any Veteran that might need these services, please have them contact their Veterans Service Office for assistance filing for benefits.

Ride Safe, George

George W. Smith, ALRDOC Service Officer