



July 12, 2023

The Honorable Don Bacon
U.S. House of Representatives
2104 Rayburn House Office Building
Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Pappas
U.S. House of Representatives
452 Cannon House Office
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Bacon and Representative Pappas:

AARP, which advocates for the more than 100 million Americans age 50 and over, is pleased to endorse H.R. 2818, the Autonomy for Disabled Veterans Act. We applaud your bipartisan efforts to ensure veterans can remain in their homes and continue to live independently.

After their service, hard work, and contributions to our society, America's veterans deserve to live with independence, security, and dignity. AARP is fighting for individuals to have the ability to make home-improvements and structural modifications that allow them to live safely in their homes and communities. H.R. 2818 will increase the amount authorized under the VA's Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) grant program to \$10,000 for veterans with a service-connected disability and \$5,000 for veterans with a disability that is not service-connected. The legislation also requires the VA to increase the dollar amount of the grant in accordance with inflation as determined by the Consumer Price Index.

The VA's HISA grant program allows veterans to adapt their primary residence to improve accessibility to kitchens, bathrooms, entrances and exits, paths and driveways, or to update plumbing and electrical systems to allow the use of home medical equipment. Accessible housing, which accommodates people of all ages and ability levels, is crucial to veterans who wish to remain in their homes as they age.

AARP appreciates your work to support veterans and explore ways to help them live safely and independently at home. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Emily Hetherington on our Government Affairs team at ehetherington@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Bill Sweeney".

Bill Sweeney
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs