



No Coronavirus Copays for Veterans Act

BACKGROUND

On December 11, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued the first emergency use authorization (EUA) for a vaccine for the prevention of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).¹ One week later, the FDA authorized another safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine, and more are expected in 2021.² National Institutes of Health Director Dr. Francis Collins stated that the authorization of these vaccines represents not only a “remarkable scientific achievement,” but also “a significant step toward ending the pandemic that has caused so much suffering.”³

Recognizing the critical importance of vaccinating the United States population to save lives and stop the spread of the coronavirus, the CARES Act included provisions to provide free coverage of COVID-19 vaccines, without any form of cost-sharing. However, although these provisions applied to Americans with group and individual insurance plans, Medicare, and Medicare Advantage, some veterans were excluded.

SUMMARY

The **No Coronavirus Copays for Veterans Act**, led by Representative Lauren Underwood (IL-14), would close the CARES Act loophole to ensure that veterans receiving care through the Department of Veterans Affairs do not face any copayments or other out-of-pocket costs for vaccines or other forms of qualifying preventive services related to COVID-19.

It is unacceptable that veterans who have served our country would bear financial burdens that most civilians do not have to worry about. It is also dangerous for all Americans if any members of our community face financial barriers to accessing a COVID-19 vaccine. In order to finally defeat the coronavirus and rebuild our economy, we need to protect our entire population. The **No Coronavirus Copays for Veterans Act** ensures that our veterans receive the COVID-19 preventive services they need and deserve.

COSPONSORS

This bipartisan legislation was introduced with Representatives Julia Brownley (D-CA), Lee Zeldin (R-NY), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA).

ENDORING ORGANIZATIONS

The No Coronavirus Copays for Veterans Act is endorsed by American Veterans (AMVETS) and the Service Women’s Action Network (SWAN).

CONTACT

For more information or to cosponsor the bill, contact Jack DiMatteo in Rep. Underwood’s office at Jack.DiMatteo@mail.house.gov.

¹ U.S. Food and Drug Administration: [FDA Takes Key Action in Fight Against COVID-19 By Issuing Emergency Use Authorization for First COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

² U.S. Food and Drug Administration: [FDA Takes Additional Action in Fight Against COVID-19 By Issuing Emergency Use Authorization for Second COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

³ National Institutes of Health: [Statement from NIH and BARDA on the FDA Emergency Use Authorization of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#)