

SUPPORT FOR SIGNING VETERAN DEATH CERTIFICATES WITHIN 72 HOURS

The families of veterans endure profound grief when they lose their loved ones who have served our country. In many cases, they are also subjected to bureaucratic delays in the signing of death certificates for veterans who have passed of natural causes, creating unnecessary additional hardships. Under the current system in the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), this delay, which can extend from four to eight weeks, places an undue emotional and financial burden on grieving families, preventing them from accessing critical financial records, banking accounts, or survivor benefits. The current system is flawed and causes needless suffering for those already mourning a loss. The inability to access essential financial resources during such a difficult time can prolong the grief process and delay important steps in honoring the veteran’s service. For many families, this delay means missing critical opportunities to address financial obligations and begin the healing process without the added stress of navigating red tape.

Proposed federal legislation would require VA physicians, who were the primary doctors for the veteran, to sign the death certificate within 72 hours of notification. This solution is not only practical but also respectful to those who have dedicated their lives to serving our nation. Military families should not have to wait weeks to move forward with the process of mourning and healing. By acting swiftly to address this issue, Congress can help reduce the emotional and financial strain placed on families during their most vulnerable times.

Supporting legislation to resolve this problem will send a powerful message to families of veterans: their sacrifice is not forgotten, and we value the service and contributions of their loved ones.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office-Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations support legislation that would ensure veteran death certificates are signed within 72 hours.

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MOTION

SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
HAHN	_____
BARGER	_____