



Expanding Mental Health Support for Michigan Veterans

Michigan House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military and Veterans Affairs
May 2025

Key Facts on Veteran Mental Health in Michigan:

- Michigan is home to approximately 500,000 veterans.
- The suicide rate among Michigan veterans is 31.1 per 100,000, nearly double the rate of the general population.
- Fewer than 50% of veterans in need receive mental health care.

Why Teletherapy Matters:

Barriers to care include geographic isolation, long wait times, stigma, and scheduling conflicts. Teletherapy overcomes these challenges by offering:

- On-demand access
- Flexible scheduling
- Private, stigma-reducing environments
- No need for travel or multi-step approvals

Recommended Pilot Program:

Two-year statewide teletherapy pilot for Michigan veterans

- Free access to therapy services
- Data-driven outcome tracking
- Partnerships with MVAA and local veteran organizations
- Budget of \$10 per covered veteran

Goals:

- Expand access to underserved veterans
- Improve mental health outcomes
- Evaluate cost-effectiveness and scalability

Call to Action:

- Establish competitive grant process funding for the pilot
- Use data to guide ongoing investment

Let's make Michigan a national leader in innovative mental health access for veterans.