

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

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Contact:  
K. Bonini 202.225.4735  
kyle.bonini@mail.house.gov

**Benishek: "All Our Veterans Deserve Proper Care"**  
--Congressman Endorses Bill To Protect Veterans In Rural Areas--

WASHINGTON, DC: Congressman Dan Benishek (MI-01) today cosponsored H.R. 1133, the "Helping Our Homeless Vets Act," which allows the Department of Veterans' Affairs to contract with private clinics to provide disability services to veterans and makes them eligible for housing vouchers that could pay up to 70% of their rent.

"It is unacceptable that some of America's veterans are not eligible for housing vouchers simply because they live in a rural area," said Benishek, a former surgeon at the VA hospital in Iron Mountain.

"It is imperative that military veterans in Northern Michigan receive the utmost care and have access to services available from the federal government. These individuals have given their service to our country and deserve to be treated right," added Benishek.

A member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Benishek said that under current federal program, veterans can only receive housing vouchers if they receive services from a VA case manager. Because many veterans in rural areas live so far away from a VA facility they are unable to receive these services, they are thus ineligible for the housing vouchers.

Benishek went on to explain that the new legislation would allow the Veterans' Administration to contract with local private entities that would provide service to homeless vets, qualifying them for the voucher program.

Benishek also said that as a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, he will ask other members of the Michigan Congressional delegation to consider supporting this legislation. Benishek stated that with over 68,000 veterans in the First District, he hopes to continue working with his colleagues in the House to streamline and improve access for important services to our nation's military veterans.

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