



NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES

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DUCED TO CONGRESS**

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SOON!**

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WHAT IS IT AND WHEN WILL
I GET THE BENEFIT?**

SENATE BILL FOR COVID FUNDING TO THE VA INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

By Henry Lobkowicz

As we celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, it is important to remember the substantial efforts made by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The VA is the single largest integrated healthcare system in the United States. The VA employs over 300,000 full time healthcare professionals. Over 9,000,000 veterans are enrolled with the VA and over 6,000,000 of those veterans are receiving healthcare.

Like healthcare workers nationwide, healthcare workers at the VA are at elevated risk of COVID-19. However, this has not stopped the VA from taking extra measures to protect American communities from the pandemic. The VA has provided over, 869,000 pieces of protective equipment, such as masks and gloves. The VA has also admitted over 300 non-veteran citizens into their care centers as part of their humanitarian efforts. The VA has also provided medical personnel to state and community nursing homes throughout the United States.

Like other healthcare systems, the VA has suffered its fair share of casualties. As of November 03, 2020, 63 VA employees have passed away due to COVID-19. 3 of those deaths were in Reno, and 2 were in Las Vegas.

On October 23, 2020 Senate Bill 4852 was introduced and would allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use COVID-19 aid and relief funds to alleviate financial problems encountered by the VA in fighting the pandemic. The increased funding could also enable the Department to give increased protection to their employees as they selflessly work through this ordeal. NLS honors the service of all of our veterans and active duty military this Veterans Day.

