**Veterans Megabus Bill**

*Provisions Senator Blumenthal Supported or Introduced in the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee that are Included in the Veterans Megabus Bill*

1. **Chiropractic Care for All Veterans Act:** The megabus includes a version of Senator Blumenthal’s bill the Chiropractic Care for All Veterans Act that would improve health care for veterans by expanding access to chiropractic care at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers nationwide.
2. **Allowing veterans to appeal their disability claims:** The megabus also ensures that veterans who misfile their claims documents still maintain the option to appeal their claims decisions. If veterans disagree with a Board decision on their claims, they can ask the Board to appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Veterans must file an appeal to the Court of Appeals within 120 days after notice of the Board decision is mailed to them. Veterans or their family members are sometimes confused by this process and incorrectly send the Notice of Appeal to one of VA’s offices. If that happens and the Notice of Appeal is not forwarded to the Court within the 120-day window, the appeal eventually may be dismissed as untimely. This bill would provide that a Notice of Appeal incorrectly sent to VA instead of the Court will be considered as a motion for reconsideration by the Board. This change would prevent the VA from holding onto claims until after the date when the veteran could file to appeal.
3. **Orthotics and Prosthetics for Veterans:** The megabus includes provisions from the Wounded Warrior Workforce Enhancement Act, which Senators Durbin, Blumenthal, and Harkin introduced to increase funding and research for orthotics and prosthetics within the VA.
4. **Preventing Discrimination against Veterans:** Based on Sen. Blumenthal’s bill S.1281, the Service members and Veterans Employment Rights and Housing Act, the megabus bill authorizes a study on discrimination against veterans in employment. The study would include an evaluation of the adequacy and effectiveness of current federal laws in preventing or ameliorating acts of discrimination against members of the National Guard and Reserves and veterans seeking or retaining employment in the civilian labor market.
5. **Help for Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma:** The megabus contains provisions strongly supported by Senator Blumenthal to make it easier for veterans to prove military sexual trauma for the purpose of receiving VA disability compensation.
6. **WWII Merchant Marines:** Senator Blumenthal worked with Senator Murphy to introduce a bill making it easier for World War II Merchant Marines to prove their veteran status. This bill is included in the megabus.
7. **Prevention of Fraudulent Uses of “Post-9/11 GI Bill”:** Senator Blumenthal worked with Senator Boxer to introduce a bill—included in the megabus—requiring permission from the VA for anyone to use the phrase “Post-9/11 GI Bill.” This bill is intended to prevent the phrase’s use by websites implying that veterans may only use their GI Bill benefits at certain for-profit universities. Senator Blumenthal helped to secure this provision in the megabus.
8. **VA Leases:** The megabus authorizes major medical leases, including the Errera Community Care Center in West Haven, CT, despite CBO scoring that Senator Blumenthal and other senators have been prominently disputing.
9. **Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act:** Senator Blumenthal is a cosponsor of this bill (S.6), also included in the megabus, that would improve enforcement of employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services.
10. **Women Veterans and Other Health Care Improvements Act of 2013:**  This bill would improve the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured veterans and their spouses, and for other purposes. Senator Blumenthal is a cosponsor of this bill, introduced by Senator Murray. This bill is included in the megabus.