

**Washington D.C.** - Today Congressman Kevin McCarthy sent a letter in support of a Department of Veterans Affairs grant that would allow the VA's Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLA) to establish a pilot program to expand healthcare access for veterans in rural areas of Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties.

*“As a nation we honor our veterans – they wore the uniform, marched in defense of our nation, and sacrificed. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude and should ensure that we are fulfilling our commitment to them. We should work to provide access to the quality care they need. The approval of this grant by the Veterans Administration will allow veterans in rural communities the option to receive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare in an area located near their home. As local veterans and I have discussed during listening meetings, we should continue to work together to find ways Congress can improve veterans’ access to the care by reducing barriers through new technology and by giving greater choice to the individual veteran.”*

Specifically this grant will launch 3 programs:

- Rural Mobile Healthcare Clinic Unit, which will be equipped with a nurse practitioner, doctor or mobile provider to bring access to primary care to veterans
- Tele-Mental Health, this program will use videoconferencing technology to provide real-time mental health teleprimary care services in rural areas
- Fee basis services and Cancer Screening and Prevention