



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MEDIA CONTACT

Chris Fox: [Chris@nonopioidchoices.org](mailto:Chris@nonopioidchoices.org)  
(240) 381-0830 (mobile)

## **NOPAIN for Veterans Act (H.R. 4509) Takes Key Step Forward in the House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC (November 19, 2025)** – Today, the health subcommittee of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs held a legislative hearing to discuss 2026 legislative priorities. Among the pieces of legislation discussed was the *Non-Opioids Prevent Addiction in the Nation* (“NOPAIN”) *for Veterans Act* (H.R. 4509), which would require the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to add FDA-approved non-opioid pain management approaches to its National Formulary. Passing this bill will facilitate choice in how clinicians help VA beneficiaries manage their acute postsurgical pain, reduce rates of opioid abuse, misuse, dependence, and addiction occurring post-surgically, and save lives.

Drug overdose deaths among veterans are on the rise. From 2010 to 2019, drug overdose mortality rates among veterans increased by 53 percent.<sup>1</sup> Additionally:

- Two-thirds of all U.S. veterans report experiencing pain following deployment;<sup>2</sup>
- Nearly half report misusing prescription opioids;<sup>3</sup> and
- 2.4 million veterans report having a substance use disorder (SUD).<sup>4</sup>

“Our Veterans deserve timely access to every effective treatment available - without unnecessary red tape,” said Representative Jack Bergman (R-MI), who is one of the NOPAIN for Veterans Act’s lead sponsors. “The NOPAIN for Veterans Act ensures Veterans can receive the care they’ve earned - including safe, proven non-opioid options for managing acute pain. This legislation is a meaningful step toward improving quality of life while reducing reliance on

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<sup>1</sup> Bennett, A. S., Guarino, H., Britton, P. C., O’Brien-Mazza, D., Cook, S. H., Taveras, F., Cortez, J., & Elliott, L. (2022). *U.S. military veterans and the opioid overdose crisis: A review of risk factors and prevention efforts*. *Annals of Medicine*, 54(1), 1500–1514. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07853890.2022.2092896>.

<sup>2</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2019). *Substance use and military life [DrugFacts]*. National Institutes of Health. <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/substance-use-military-life>.

<sup>3</sup> Kelley, M. L., Bravo, A. J., Votaw, V. R., Stein, E., Redman, J. C., & Witkiewitz, K. (2019). *Opioid and sedative misuse among veterans wounded in combat*. *Addictive Behaviors*, 92, 168–172. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2018.12.007>.

<sup>4</sup> Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2024). *2023 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Among the veteran population aged 18 or older*. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/reports/rpt53159/2023-nsduh-pop-slides-veterans.pdf>.

addictive medications.”

“Veterans want non-opioid, non-addictive pain relief and they should be able to get it at the VA,” said Representative Greg Landsman (D-OH) who spoke at today’s hearing and is a leading architect of the NOPAIN for Veterans Act. “Our bipartisan bill gives our veterans these options.”

The hearing today is the first step in the legislative process, but it marks important progress.

“Today’s hearing is an important step forward in preventing opioid addiction among our nation’s veterans,” said Chris Fox, Executive Director of Voices for Non-Opioid Choices. “We would like to thank Chairwoman Miller-Meeks and Ranking Member Brownley for holding this hearing and for taking seriously the opportunity to prevent addiction in veterans by making non-opioid pain approaches more accessible. We look forward to partnering with you as we continue our push towards enactment of this important legislation.”

The legislation enjoys widespread support and has been endorsed by [more than 100 leading national organizations](#) as well as four leading national Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), including:

- Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
- Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)
- The American Legion
- Vietnam Veterans of America

### **About Voices for Non-Opioid Choices**

Voices for Non-Opioid Choices is a nonpartisan coalition dedicated to preventing opioid addiction before it starts by increasing patient and provider access to non-opioid therapies and approaches to manage acute pain. For more information, visit [www.nonopioidchoices.org](http://www.nonopioidchoices.org).

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