

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON **VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

REPUBLICANS | RANKING MEMBER MIKE BOST

H.R. 291: The Department of Veterans Affairs COST SAVINGS (Creation of On-Site Treatment Systems Affording Veterans Improvements and Numerous General Safety) Enhancements Act

Background:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) both consider on-site waste management to be a medical best practice as well as a cost-effective alternative to off-site waste management. However, only approximately 20% of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities have installed on-site regulated medical waste equipment. Veterans deserve a VA healthcare system that embraces best practices and is a good steward of taxpayer dollars. The VA COST SAVINGS Enhancements Act would require VA to develop a uniform medical waste cost analysis model to determine the cost savings associated with the use of an on-site medical waste treatment system and identify facilities that would benefit from the cost savings associated with the use of an on-site medical waste treatment system over a five year period. Any VA facility that would benefit from an on-site medical waste treatment system would be required to purchase such a system using the "VHA Regulated Medical Waste On-Site Treatment Equipment Systems Blanket Purchase Agreement." This would ensure that the VA healthcare system is the model of world class care that it should be.

The Message:

- On-site waste management is a medical best practice and the VA healthcare system should fully embrace it on behalf of our veterans.
- Taxpayer dollars allocated toward VA should be spent on veterans, not on inefficient administrative practices that are not best in class.
- The VA COST SAVINGS Enhancements Act would require VA to identify facilities that would benefit from on-site medical waste treatment systems and put those systems in place to better serve veterans and taxpayers alike.