



To: Interested Parties  
From: Nate Anderson, Senior Advisor, Concerned Veterans for America Action  
Re: Sen. Tillis has been a champion for North Carolina's veterans  
Date: March 6, 2020

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**Concerned Veterans for America Action today announces its endorsement of Senator Thom Tillis for reelection. CVA Action is dedicated to supporting candidates based on their active leadership roles on top policy priorities for improving the lives of all Americans. Below you will see the case for endorsing Sen. Thom Tillis.**

North Carolina is home to two of the world's largest military bases – the Army's Fort Bragg, where I trained and was stationed for four years, and the Marine Corps' Camp Lejeune. More than 650,000 veterans make their home here. That makes it crucial that the state's elected representatives understand the needs of the veteran and military communities.

Sen. Thom Tillis does.

In the face of often harsh – and misguided – criticism, he has been a policy champion on issues important to veterans, leading efforts to improve access to quality, affordable health care and to make the Department of Veterans Affairs more accountable to the veteran community.

In the wake of the VA's [wait-time scandal](#) that saw more than 200 veterans die while waiting for care at a Phoenix VA facility, he cosponsored the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act. The bipartisan [legislation](#) reformed the VA by providing the secretary with broader authority to dismiss bad employees, prohibit bonuses for employees accused of wrongdoing, and ensure due process protections for whistleblowers.

Tillis, who is a member of both the Senate Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs committees, also helped carry to enactment the landmark [VA MISSION Act](#), which expanded access to the health care veterans earned by serving their country, and increased the quality of that care.

Underpinning Tillis' philosophy is a simple idea, coupled to the resolve to see the idea turned into practical policy: The VA should be working for veterans rather than forcing veterans to jump through the VA's hoops.

The reforms authored and supported by Tillis have put our veterans at the center of their own health care – providing not privatization, as [critics mistakenly claim](#), but options. Tillis understands it matters less where veterans get their care than that they get the care they earned, when they need it.

While the broad strokes of policy are important, the details also matter. And on that count, Tillis has also proven effective.

He was the author of a provision in the MISSION Act that improves payment processing by allowing the VA to use outside vendors to electronically process health care claims from medical providers, leading to faster and more efficient service. He also wrote the section of the bill that authorized pilot programs to modernize the VA and allow it to explore innovative ways of delivering care and services to North Carolina's veterans.

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Seeing that our veterans get the benefits they've earned is not a partisan endeavor. He has been able to accomplish so much because he has been willing to work across the aisle. For Tillis, it's more important to get things done for veterans than score political points.

“There was no waiting line for our men and women in uniform when they raised their right hands and volunteered to serve,” he and a Democratic colleague, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, [wrote](#) in a joint opinion piece. “There shouldn't be a waiting line when they return home and need our help getting the care they've earned.”

That is the principle that has guided Sen. Thom Tillis through his first term. And it's the one that will guide him through his second. We urge the veterans of the Tar Heel State – and all North Carolinians – to support his re-election.