

**STATEMENT OF  
REP. MICHAEL MICHAUD  
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
FLOOR STATEMENT FOR DEBATE ON H.R. 1627**

**July 31, 2012**

I'm particularly pleased this package includes legislation I've been working on for two years that will ensure that our severely disabled and elderly veterans are able to get the care they need.

Specifically, my bill requires the VA to enter into contracts or provider agreements with state veterans homes in order to reimburse them adequately for the care they provide. Without this legislation, state veterans homes will not get reimbursed properly for the services they provide to our veterans.

According to data from the National Association of State Veterans Homes, the average rate for such care is roughly \$359 per veteran per day, while the VA currently only reimburses the homes \$235 per day. This difference of \$124 per day amounts to over \$45,000 per year for each covered veteran. And with approximately 25,000 beds nationwide, the financial burden on State Veterans' Homes could become crippling.

Passing this legislation into law will ensure our state veterans homes are paid adequately for the services they provide and can continue to serve veterans that need care.

I want to thank the Chairman and the Ranking Member for their support of this bill and for working to bring this legislation to the floor. Our veterans will be better off as a result.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.