

Murphy Announces Veterans Administration's Reversal on Voting Policy

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) announced that the Veterans Administration's (VA) has decided to rescind its order to thwart nonpartisan voter registration activities at VA facilities.

"Finally, after months of pressure from our efforts in Congress and from veterans across the country, the Veterans Administration was compelled to do the right thing, and reverse its policy of restricting access to voter registration in its hospitals. To think that veterans, who gave up so much to protect our democratic values, were going to be denied access to voter registration drives was inconceivable - that is why I didn't waste any time in trying to change this policy. I am glad the VA finally came around, but federal legislation is still necessary in order to ensure that this never happens again," said Murphy.

Earlier this summer, the Department of Veterans Affairs, adopted a voting assistance policy that has been roundly criticized for not permitting voter registration drives in VA health care facilities. Murphy began his push to stop the VA from implementing its new policy in late July when he announced legislation to fix it.

Murphy's bill to reverse the VA's plan was approved by the House Committee on Administration in late July, the day after he and other Members of Congress introduced it. With just a few days left before the House adjourned for August, Murphy also crafted and passed an amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Appropriations bill to prevent the VA from spending taxpayer dollars to obstruct voter registration at VA facilities.

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