

## Representative Jed Davis Comments on Local Combat Veteran's Unacceptable Mistreatment by the Veterans Affairs Caregiver Support Program

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For Immediate Release

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**Springfield, IL** - State Representative Jed Davis (R-Yorkville) issued a strong statement today calling for immediate action addressing shortcomings in the Veterans Affairs (VA) Caregiver Support Program. This release comes after hearing a moving account from Michelle, a constituent and mother of a combat veteran. It also comes after receiving little to no help through traditional channels.

Michelle's son, an infantry veteran who served two tours in Iraq, has endured multiple firefights and survived seven blast injuries, leaving him with severe physical, neurological, and mental health challenges. Despite meeting multiple criteria for caregiver assistance, his mother has faced repeated denials from the VA Caregiver Support Program.

"This story is heartbreaking and unacceptable. Michelle's family is the embodiment of resilience and sacrifice. They deserve a system supporting them, not one creating more hurdles," said Rep. Davis.

The VA Caregiver Support Program assists families of returning Afghanistan and Iraq veterans. Despite expansion through the past decade or so, reports of delays in appeals and inconsistencies in eligibility determinations have left many caregivers like Michelle frustrated and unsupported.

In her own words, Michelle outlined her family's struggles: "When my son was hospitalized at a VA facility, they required constant supervision due to his condition. But when he's home under my care, the VA says he doesn't qualify for assistance. This contradiction is devastating to families like mine."

Rep. Davis is advocating local members of Congress for reforms using the following priorities:

1. **Clarifying Eligibility Rules:** Enforce and simplify consistent eligibility criteria ensuring families like Michelle's receive the aid they need.
2. **Expediting Appeals:** Reduce wait times for appeals, preventing unnecessary hardship for veterans and their caregivers.
3. **Supporting Families:** Ensure families providing full-time care have access to the financial support, resources, and training their veterans need.

“Michelle and her son are not alone. Their story is representative of a systemic failure demanding immediate action. I’m advocating for accountability and reform within the VA through local members of Congress. We must honor the sacrifices made by veterans and their families across this great nation,” Davis concluded.

Michelle is available for comments as desired.

For more information about Representative Davis, please call his district office in Yorkville at (331) 867-8200. You may also call or text the Representative’s cell at (630) 724-7600. Feel free to share any concerns or recommendations.

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