



Paralyzed Veterans  
of America

Pushing  
Access  
Forward

# Improvements to the Specially Adapted Housing Program

## The Issue

Veterans and service members who have sustained certain significant service-connected disabilities are eligible for grants to assist with the building, remodeling, or purchasing of an adapted home. The Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) grant allows modifications to be made to a residence to give a veteran or service member greater independence. One example of a modification is making a home wheelchair accessible to include: wider doorways, a ramp to the front door, and an accessible bathroom. The current maximum grant is \$90,364. A service member or veteran may use the grant three times, up to the maximum dollar amount allowed. To be eligible for the grant, the veteran or service member must be entitled to disability compensation due to:

- Loss or loss of use of both legs: unable to move around without the aid of braces, crutches, canes, or a wheelchair
- Blindness in both eyes, plus loss or loss of use of one leg
- Severe burn injury
- Loss or loss of use of both arms at or above the elbows
- Loss or loss of use of one leg, and residuals of organic disease or injury, or loss or loss of use of one arm, affecting balance and ability to move without aid

The **Ryan Kules Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act (H.R. 3504)** and the **Paul Benne Specially Adaptive Housing Improvement Act (S. 2022)** would improve the program by allowing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to prioritize a veteran's SAH grant if he or she has been diagnosed with a terminal illness to include, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Due to the aggressive nature of ALS, it is imperative that veterans are afforded the opportunity for an increased quality of life while they still have the ability to enjoy it. This legislation would also increase the amount of times that the veteran could use the grant and the current amount of the SAH grant to better match the cost of construction.

## PVA Position

Congress must pass legislation that would:

- Allow VA to prioritize a veteran's SAH claim if the veteran has been diagnosed with a terminal illness, including ALS.
- Increase the amount of the SAH grant to better match current construction costs.
- Establish a supplementary grant for veterans who need it.

An amended version of **H.R. 3504** has passed the House of Representatives and we call on the Senate to pass this or similar legislation.