

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Jennifer Cosenza, 202-729-4074

[jen@canyonranchinstitute.org](mailto:jen@canyonranchinstitute.org)

**Vietnam Veteran, Former Surgeon General Applauds VA Reform Agreement**

**WASHINGTON, DC (July 28, 2014)** – Today, Dr. Richard Carmona, the 17th Surgeon General of the United States, Vietnam Veteran, and Purple Heart recipient, applauded a bipartisan deal reached by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Representative Jeff Miller (R-FL) that would hold the Veterans Affairs Department (VA) more accountable in ensuring proper healthcare measures for veterans.

“Congress took an important step today by working across the aisle to introduce legislation that will ensure our servicemen and servicewomen are granted their basic rights to timely and reliable healthcare. The brave men and women of our armed services have given our nation so much to protect the principles upon which our country is built and protect freedom today and for future generations. The recent VA scandal was a complete operational breakdown, and we failed to fulfill our responsibility as a nation to support and protect our service members. This new measure is one small step in rectifying that failed promise and ensuring such actions never happen again.”

The components of the agreement will be outlined by Senator Sanders and Representative Miller, chairmen of the U.S. Senate and House veterans committees, at a news conference today at 1:30 p.m. ET.

Tenet principles of the bill include:

- Veterans’ access to private healthcare if they wait more than 30 days for treatment or live more than 40 miles from a VA facility.
- \$10 billion in emergency funding for veterans’ care in private clinics and hospitals.
- Authorization of funds to lease 27 additional VA clinics nationwide.

Groups on Capitol Hill expect the measure to pass the House and Senate as early as the end of this week prior to a five-week Congressional recess.

**About Canyon Ranch Institute®**

Canyon Ranch Institute catalyzes the possibility of optimal health for all people by translating the best practices of Canyon Ranch and our partners to help educate, inspire, and empower every person to prevent disease and embrace a life of wellness. Canyon Ranch Institute is a 501(c)3 non-profit public charity. More information is available at [www.canyonranchinstitute.org](http://www.canyonranchinstitute.org). On Twitter [@CRIhealthyworld](https://twitter.com/CRIhealthyworld)

###