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Contact: JT Ennis press@jamestalarico.com

James Talarico Unveils Plan to Support Texas Veterans

AUSTIN, TX — Today, State Representative James Talarico launched his plan to support Texas Veterans. His plan will tackle some of the most devastating crises facing our Veterans — physical and mental health, housing and job insecurity, and ending the forever wars that put our military families at constant risk.

“Texas has more Veterans than any other state, and they deserve a Senator who will fight for them the way they fight for us,” **said James Talarico**. “That’s why I’m proud to announce my plan to support our brave men and women in uniform and bolster the systems they rely on when they return home.”

“I want a U.S. Senator who honors our military families and Veterans not just with their words, but with their deeds,” **said former U.S. Representative Chet Edwards**. “I know James Talarico, and I know he will have the backs of our military families and Veterans every day. He will not just be another voice or vote, he will be a champion for better health care, housing, education and benefits for our military families and Veterans.”

VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILIES PLAN

Each year, millions of brave men and women protect our country, defend democracy abroad, and fight for our freedoms — yet when they come home, their country isn’t fighting for them.

The system has failed the Americans who put their lives on the line for us — resulting in skyrocketing rates of suicide and food insecurity, and challenges with homelessness, healthcare access, and employment. We are also failing the military family members who sacrifice for our freedom.

That’s why our campaign is unveiling a comprehensive policy agenda to support Veterans and military families, ensuring they have access to the support they earned.

TALARICO FOR TEXAS PLAN TO SUPPORT TEXAS VETERANS

- **Meet the mental health care needs of our Veteran population** by improving education about care options, expanding telemedicine options, and reducing wait times for Veterans by building a more robust mental health workforce.
- **Make sure our Veterans receive the health care they have earned** by fully fund the VA and stand against efforts to privatize it, reclassify VA medical care as

mandatory spending, automatically enroll all eligible Veterans in VA health care, ensure pay parity for VA healthcare providers to fill staffing gaps, fully implement the PACT Act, and reverse the Trump Administration's mass terminations of federal Veteran employees and restore unfilled roles that were eliminated.

- **Ensure Veterans have access to housing, job training, career opportunities, and real pathways to stability when they come home** by reforming military-to-civilian transitional services to ensure Veterans can access the benefits they need for adjusting to civilian life, increasing funding and oversight for federal programs that help homeless or at-risk Veterans, expanding and streamlining the VA Home Loan program that makes homeownership accessible, and establishing GI Bill parity for National Guard and Reserve members.
- **Guarantee those who serve our country and their families have the food and healthcare they need** by reversing cuts to SNAP and Medicaid, restoring ACA tax credits, allowing military children to remain on TRICARE until age 26, and supporting access to alternative pain medicines and non-drug therapies to combat opioid dependency.
- **End the forever wars that put our military and military families in harm's way** by stopping the new forever war in Iran and encouraging more cooperation with our foreign allies, including NATO and the EU.
- **Support our Gold Star Families** by passing the Love Lives On Act to ensure surviving spouses of fallen service members don't lose benefits if they remarry.

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About James Talarico:

James Talarico is an eighth-generation Texan, former middle school teacher, and seminarian.

Born to a single mom in Round Rock, James earned degrees from The University of Texas at Austin, Harvard University, and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Before serving in the Legislature, he taught English on the Westside of San Antonio — one of Texas' poorest zip codes.

Elected as state representative at the age of 29, he has led the fight against the billionaire mega-donors and their puppet politicians who have taken over our country. Now, he is running for U.S. Senate to take his fight against Big Money and corruption to Washington and win back power for working people in a system that's rigged for the ultra-wealthy.

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