

Dr. Tim Westley

Fact-checking 'The Fact-checker'

Fact-check: Do migrants have faster access to medical services than veterans?

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Texas land commissioner candidate Tim Westley recently compared health screenings for immigrants to medical appointment wait times for veterans.

... tweeted a TikTok clip from a March 30 interview where he made the comparison.

She said, "**When we talk about illegal immigration, and we have illegal immigrants that have to be seen within 24 hours, while veterans are seen within months. And here's the catch ... not only are they seen within 24 hours — it's mandatory that they're seen within 24 hours — the funding that they're being seen with falls under the Department of Veterans Affairs.**"

Mizan writes,

"... he was referring to standards of care for immigrants, which aren't always followed, and access to care for veterans."

1. My statement, which is being fact checked, doesn't mention anything about '**standards of care**'. It only references the length of time Veterans wait to be seen vs. illegal immigrants.
2. Further, whether they are followed or not, does not make them any less true.

Mizan once again mischaracterizes my statement by saying:

"**Westley compared initial health screenings with veterans' medical appointments.**"

Wrong – I was simply comparing how quickly an illegal immigrant is seen for treatment versus veterans.

Referencing Veteran's Wait Times,

Mizan quotes Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

“Nationally, veterans referred to care at Veterans Affairs health care locations are seen by a medical professional in approximately 40 days on average in 2021, said Kevin Griffith, professor of health policy at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.”

1. Read articles such as the one by USA Today which stated, “ — Supervisors instructed employees to falsify patient wait times at Veterans Affairs' medical facilities in at least seven states, (<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/04/07/va-wait-time-manipulation-veterans/82726634/>)
2. I am a U.S. Army Veteran and as I told Mr. Mizan, I know the wait times from **FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE**, not from some report.
 - **CHALLENGE** – Ask a Veteran and see if they agree with me or his source?

Referencing Funding ICE health services

Mizan quotes a Dallas Veteran Affairs public affairs representative who stated, the Financial Services Center provides services for a fee and does not receive annual appropriations from Congress. DHS “pays for” its medical care by providing funding to the Financial Services Center.

1. This is a poor attempt at a walk around from the truth. VA Financial Service Center (FSC) covers the fees for illegal immigrants’ healthcare, then they wait a reimbursement from ICE. So, as I stated, ***‘the funding that they're being seen with falls under the Department of Veterans Affairs.’*** Therefore, I stand by my statement as truth!
2. Further, in reference to fees payable to VA, ICE has at times been delayed, costing tax-payers thousands of dollars per month, and as noted in a Department of Homeland Security report, “This is a waste of tax dollars...”

So, TRY AGAIN POLITIFACT!

I Rate This Article – Misleading or Political Garbage

Sources

- VA – Illegal Immigration Care
- ICE – FSC Process for Detainees
- Fact-checking veterans’ and migrants’ access to health care