

The American Legion



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N.W. ★ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 ★
(202) 861-2700 ★

November 28, 2017

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
SR-218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senate
SD-521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain & Senator Moran:

On behalf of the 2 million members of The American Legion, I write to support your draft bill titled, *Veterans Community Care and Access Act of 2017*. The American Legion is proud to have worked closely with you to craft quality language on such a critical legislation in the early stages. This bill, as currently written, would modify the already existing Choice program, providing veterans with the 21st Century medical system they rightfully deserve.

In 2014, the nation witnessed a massive scandal erupting out of the Phoenix VA affecting veterans attempting to get medical care. The issue of veterans waiting long periods to receive medical care is what created the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2104, a temporary Band-Aid allowing veterans to seek care outside of the VA if they met qualifying standards. This year we have learned that there is certainly an appetite for veterans to receive care in the community, and this draft bill acknowledges that need, and lays out a plan to streamline the multiple programs into one, all while shaping the Veterans Health Administration into becoming a 21st century healthcare system that veterans most certainly deserve and require.

Through American Legion Resolution number 363, titled *Consolidation of Department of Veterans Affairs Care in the Community Program*, passed at The American Legion's National Convention in 2016, we are able to support such a measure to better the quality of life for servicemembers and veterans.

The American Legion applauds your leadership in addressing issues that are important to America's servicemembers, veterans, and their families. We stand with you in your efforts to pass meaningful legislation that supports our nation's heroes.

For God & Country,

Handwritten signature of Denise H. Rohan in cursive.
DENISE H. ROHAN
National Commander