



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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March 7, 2016

The Honorable David P. Roe
Chairman, House Veterans' Affairs Committee
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Roe:

On behalf of the men and women of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) and our Auxiliary, we are pleased to offer our support for H.R. 1259, the *VA Accountability First Act of 2017*.

Your legislation would allow the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to expeditiously remove or demote any VA employee based on poor performance or misconduct. For far too long, underperforming employees have been allowed to continue working at VA, simply because the processes for removal are so protracted. The VFW believes that employees should have some layer of protection, but that true accountability must be enforced for those unable to meet performance standards. This is critical to ensuring VA consistently provides the highest quality services, as well as continuing to restore veterans' faith in the Department.

The VFW also urges you and your staff to work towards a bipartisan and bicameral compromise on strong accountability reform, which would pass both chambers and overcome judicial scrutiny. Congressional inaction fails to improve VA's inefficient accountability authorities and fails veterans.

The VFW commends your leadership on this issue and your commitment to meaningful VA reforms. We look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Carlos U. Fuentes, Director
VFW National Legislative Service

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.