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21 March 2012

The Honorable Jeff Miller (FL-01)
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller,

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN), we applaud and support your bill H.R. 3895, the Protect VA Healthcare Act of 2012. We are happy to join other Veteran Service Organizations (VSO's), like the American Legion, Fleet Reserve Association and others, who have already voiced their support for this important piece of legislation.

The looming threat of sequestration has been a consistent concern in Congressional hearings. The Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, and the Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, Eric Shinseki, have both responded to questions, answering that the sequestration trigger would have a 'devastating impact' on how their departments would conduct its business for our current military and veteran communities.

Although neither Department of Defense nor Department of Veterans' Affairs have said they have begun plans for sequestration, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has still not ruled if they would exempt veterans' programs should sequestration be triggered. Our veterans, and their families, have given a lot in service of their country and should not have to be faced with automatic and indiscriminate cuts to vital programs that are essential to their livelihoods.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the veteran community and introducing legislation to ensure vital programs are exempt from automatic sequestration. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact our Director of Legislation, Mr. Anthony Wallis, at 703-548-5800.

Sincerely,

Casey W. Coane