



March 3, 2017

The Honorable Phil Roe
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Roe,

The Association for the United States Navy strongly supports the “VA Accountability First Act of 2017”, which will amend title 38 to remove or demote VA employees who lack performance or commit misconduct. The VA has a history of committing crimes without anything more than a slap on the wrist, leaving it to Veterans to suffer from lesser care. With this Act, the accountability that Veterans have been looking for in order to require that the VA give the proper care would finally occur. We at AUSN look forward to your introduction of this bill and will do everything in our power to ensure it gains traction in the House and Senate.

The “VA Accountability First Act of 2017”, helps outline accountability measures, which benefit veterans as well as VA leadership. This bill will ensure individuals, not just the entire organization or leadership, are held accountable for their actions. The expedited system would allow employees who had misbehaved to appeal within 10 days and then have their appeal decided within 45 days, which is a much quicker, cleaner version to the system we currently have. This would help bring in better individuals rather than new leadership every time there is a problem, and would allow for expedited reprimand of the individuals by streamlining the discipline process.

It is crucial that Department of Veterans Affairs employees be held responsible for their actions. The current system provides little to no punishment for an employees’ maleficence and, by having initiatives that are introduced in this bill, it would make a lasting impact within the VA and finally give veterans the quality of care they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Joseph Little". To the right of the signature, there are handwritten initials "ABH" and "USNR" in blue ink.

Michael J. Little
Director of Legislative Affairs