



## ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

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March 2, 2017

The Honorable Phil Roe, Chairman  
Committee on Veterans Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
335 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Roe:

On behalf of the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) which represents the interests of over 400,000 enlisted men and women of the Army and Air National Guard, we are pleased to offer our full support for "The VA Accountability Act of 2017." Your legislation addresses much needed accountability measures for the employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

We believe your legislation gives the VA the power it needs to hold its employees accountable, while strengthening protection for whistleblowers. This is crucial, as the events of the past two years have made it clear to our organization that the VA is unable to remove employees that are negligent, underperforming, and don't serve in the best interest of veterans. We also believe the robust protections for whistleblowers contained in this legislation are critical. Employees that do the right thing should not fear reprisals for identifying deficiencies that could endanger veterans.

EANGUS thanks you for your continued leadership on this issue and your commitment to bring improvements and accountability to the VA. We stand ready to work with you and your staff to ensure the passage of this important piece of legislation in the 115th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Yoakum".

Sgt Maj Frank Yoakum, US Army (Ret)  
Executive Director