

The American Legion



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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February 12, 2014

Honorable Jeff Miller, Chairman
House Veterans Affairs Committee
334 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express our support for the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act of 2014.

The American Legion is deeply concerned with the lack of accountability within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This legislation would provide tools to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to better manage Senior Executive Service employees, and hold them accountable when they fail to perform their duties in a manner that better serves the veterans entrusted to their care.

When veterans see a Regional Office losing ground and wait times increasing in the fight to reduce the claims backlog, they grow frustrated when leadership continues as if nothing was wrong. When veterans see mismanagement practices in their healthcare system that put patient health at risk, veterans want to see leadership change to show a commitment from the top down that says their health and safety are the top priority of VA. This bill gives the Secretary of Veterans Affairs the tools he needs to help convey that message back to veterans and help ensure veterans have faith and trust in the systems designed to provide health care to them and to care for their wounds of war.

The American Legion supports this legislation and applauds your leadership in ensuring the nation's veterans have a Department of Veterans Affairs they can place their trust in.

Respectfully,


DANIEL M. DELLINGER
National Commander