



United States Army
Warrant Officers Association

The Quiet Professionals®

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March 2, 2017

The Honorable Phil Roe
Chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Roe:

The United States Army Warrant Officers Association (USAWOA) is the only military service organization thoroughly devoted to the welfare of Army Warrant Officers – serving, former and retired – and their families. The USAWOA writes in support of your bill, H.R. 1259, the “VA Accountability First Act of 2017.”

Your bill would provide the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) increased flexibility to remove VA employees for performance or misconduct, would provide improved protections for whistleblowers (including recouping bonus awards for supervisors who retaliate against whistleblowers or employees engaged in poor performance or misconduct prior to receiving a bonus), and would strengthen accountability of VA Senior Executive Service (SES) employees.

This legislation would also expand the Secretary’s authority to directly appoint individuals to key positions in the VA. USAWOA strongly supports this, and any other effort to give the Secretary maximum flexibility in the overall management of the VA.

USAWOA joined other members of The Military Coalition in working hard with members of Congress on the VA Choice Act in 2014. H.R. 1259 expands on this good work, to provide more efficient service to our Veterans in need, as it also enforces greater accountability of the professionals tasked with serving them.

The USAWOA thanks you for your leadership on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me for clarification of USAWOA’s position on this, or any other issue in the future.

Sincerely,

Jack Du Teil
Executive Director