



CONCERNED
VETERANS
FOR AMERICA

January 28, 2014

The Honorable Jeff Miller
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Veterans Affairs
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Miller,

Concerned Veterans for America would like to express our full support for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Management Accountability Act of 2014.

As a non-profit, grassroots veterans organization with a presence across the country, our members are keenly aware of the persistent problems inside VA, many of which emanate from a lack of accountability inside this failing department. This legislation is a huge step in the right direction, as it empowers the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hold Senior Executive Service (SES) employees and managers accountable for their job performance. Good VA managers will be rewarded, bad VA managers removed, and veterans better served. It's common sense, and long overdue.

Recent revelations of VA healthcare mismanagement—like an outbreak of Legionella at the Pittsburgh VA and deadly delays in care at VA hospitals in Columbia, S.C. and Augusta, GA—are alarming. Not only were SES managers not held accountable for these tragic and preventable incidents, but many leaders at these places still received bonuses—a perverse outcome to say the least. The same can be said about the disability claims backlog, and the growing appeals backlog.

America's veterans deserve the best possible care and services when utilizing VA facilities and processes. That's what this reform legislation is intended to create—better care and more efficient outcomes. CVA believes this legislation will empower the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to bring long-overdue accountability to the SES, and in doing so forge a culture of accountability—rather than more bureaucratic malaise.

Thank you for your continued efforts in support of America's veterans, and let us know what CVA can do to support the passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hegseth'.

Pete Hegseth
CEO, Concerned Veterans for America

