



CONCERNED
VETERANS
FOR AMERICA

May 3, 2018

Chairman Phil Roe
House Veterans Affairs Committee
United States House of Representatives
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Roe,

On behalf of Concerned Veterans for America's activists across the country, I would like to offer our support for H.R. 5674, the *Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthen Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018* (MISSION), which would provide much needed reform to the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) medical system.

In 2014, reports of hundreds of veterans dying while waiting for care at VA hospitals shocked the nation. Despite tens of billions of dollars in budget increases for the VA over the past four years, there are still far too many veterans waiting long periods of time for critical appointments and too frequent reports of veterans suffering as the result of substandard care at the VA.

The MISSION Act would put greater decision-making power in the hands of veterans and provide much-needed clarity regarding referral and eligibility standards for veterans to receive care in their communities. The legislation would also improve reimbursement and record-sharing systems for community providers while also mandating that the VA conduct a much-needed assessment of its medical infrastructure.

The VA's patient population is going to change dramatically over the next ten years. The American veteran population is anticipated to shrink by 4 to 5 million by 2030 and will become more dispersed. The MISSION Act provides legislative language to modernize and redesign the delivery of health care at the VA.

Concerned Veterans for America offers our support for the MISSION Act and we thank you for leading on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dan Caldwell
Executive Director
Concerned Veterans for America