



Lt Gen Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret)
President and CEO

May 31, 2016

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
Chairman
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Blumenthal,

On behalf of the 390,000 members of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and their families, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing S. 2921, the Veterans First Act. This comprehensive bill would improve the delivery of health care and benefits to our nation's veterans and their families. Your hard work and commitment in reaching consensus on this complex legislation is noteworthy and greatly appreciated.

MOAA receives many inquiries from our members asking what's being done to improve access to medical care and streamline benefit programs and services in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Thanks to the bipartisan work of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, we have a real opportunity this year to make the important and lasting changes needed to reform and modernized VA. MOAA is particularly pleased to see many key enhancements in the bill supporting our priorities in areas such as:

- Family caregiver support
- Medical training, education and workforce management
- Disability claims processing and appeals systems
- Mental health, pain management and substance abuse programs
- Patient advocacy
- Toxic exposure research
- Survivor benefits
- Education, employment and transition programs

While we are grateful for these enhancements, we will continue to work with the Senate and the House to add important provisions to expand health care services and benefits for women veterans and to consolidate VA Care in the Community Programs.

I greatly appreciate your leadership and look forward to working together to pass this timely legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana T. Atkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".