



May 21, 2018

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

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

Dear Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Tester,

Easterseals is pleased to support S. 2372, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks or VA MISSION Act. The legislation will help America's veterans receive timely and quality care, will streamline the process for community organizations to partner with the VA to provide care, and will expand the VA's Family Caregiver Program to eligible veterans of all eras.

Easterseals is a national network of more than 70 leading nonprofit organizations that provide local services and supports to individuals with disabilities, veterans, and other Americans. Easterseals expanded its national mission following World War II to help meet the needs of veterans coming home with service-connected disabilities. Today, Easterseals actively serves veterans by partnering with the VA, Department of Labor, and other public and private organizations to improve access to employment, housing support, emergency financial assistance, community adult day health, assistive technology, and other essential local supports.

Easterseals supports the VA and its important mission to care for and assist the men and women who have served our nation. Easterseals stands ready to expand our partnership with the VA to deliver local care and supports to eligible veterans. Veteran care agreements established through the VA MISSION Act will make it less bureaucratic for Easterseals to partner with the VA to provide extended care services, such as adult day health and respite care, to veterans in the communities we serve in all across the country.

While Easterseals supports the VA MISSION Act, we ask Congress to increase the discretionary spending caps equal to the anticipated expenditures for the Veterans Community Care Program to meet the federal funding needs of other important programs at the VA and other federal agencies.

Thank you for considering our views on helping veterans to access essential care and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maynard Friesz".

Maynard Friesz
Assistant Vice President, Government Relations
Easterseals