

Wounded Warrior Project

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November 29, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Isakson,

At Wounded Warrior Project (WWP), we provide advocacy based on a history of having served more than 3.5 million post-9/11 veterans, servicemembers, and families through partnerships and direct programs. From this perspective, WWP is pleased to offer its support for the current draft of the *Caring for Our Veterans Act of 2017*. We sincerely appreciate the spirit of bipartisanship and inclusiveness reflected in this bill and applaud your commitment to expanding options for care in the community and strengthening the resources available at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to help meet growing demand for care.

While we have reservations about a provision in the bill that would allow VA to charge veterans for medical services related to service-connected disabilities, we are pleased to see other provisions in the bill that would provide an avenue to appeal decisions regarding community-based care, address deficiencies in access and quality within VA medical service lines, and improve telemedicine options. Overall, the bill is consistent with WWP's support for a strong, integrated health system that provides timely access to the best possible care.

Additionally, WWP appreciates the measured approach to expanding VA's Family Caregiver Program outlined in Title III. While WWP's advocacy efforts have been dedicated to ensuring proper functioning of the program for current beneficiaries, we believe that program expansion to all generations can and should be achieved with careful management and appropriate funding.

In closing, WWP would like to express our sincere gratitude for your leadership and commitment to serving and working diligently on behalf of our nation's veterans, family members, and caregivers to solve very challenging and complex problems. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff on improving the Choice Program and building a strong and sustainable system of care for wounded warriors and those who support them.

Sincerely,

René C. Bardorf
Senior Vice President of Government and Community Relations

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