## Statement for the Record - Chairman Isakson Joint Hearing on Legislative Presentation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars March 1, 2017

Welcome to the hundreds of VFW members and Auxiliary members in attendance and a special welcome to Commander William Sandberg and the rest of the Georgia delegation. I regret that I am unable to attend the hearing today as I am at home recovering from back surgery the rest of this week before returning to Washington, D.C. I look forward to returning with a new and improved back to continue working harder than ever on behalf of veterans.

As I said at Secretary Shulkin's confirmation hearing, we're about making health care more available to veterans through care in both the private sector and VA. We don't want to privatize VA. We want to empower it. I look forward to working collaboratively with you and other stakeholders to help improve the care and services for our veterans.