



National Association of VA Physicians and Dentists

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**Statement of Support for
S. 899 Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Transition Improvement Act**

The National Association of Veterans Affairs Physicians and Dentists (NAVAPD) is pleased to issue this statement in support of S. 899, the Department of Veterans Affairs Veteran Transition Improvement Act. This important legislation would extend the existing disabled veteran leave category to eligible employees within the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with a disability rating of 30% or higher for the purposes of receiving medical care related to their service-connected condition.

This Bill continues the efforts begun with the Wounded Warrior Federal Leave Act of 2015, which covered approximately 85% of the federal workforce, but did not cover some non-Title V employees. S. 899 would bring this to the VA and correct the oversight of not including the VA in the original Act.

Disabled veterans who now serve the nation in the VA deserve the security of knowing they can obtain the care they need for their disability without sacrificing their paycheck during their first year on the job. Passage of this legislation is needed as a matter of fairness and as a recruiting tool for the VA as it seeks to recruit physicians and dentists and other caregivers to enhance and improve the care provided to our Veterans. NAVAPD appreciates the efforts of Senator Mazie Hirono and all the sponsors and co-sponsors of this Bill, and urges prompt passage of this important legislation, S. 899.

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President