



March 6, 2017

The Honorable Phil Roe  
Chairman  
Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
U.S. House of Representatives  
335 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Roe:

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) and our more than 400,000 members are pleased to offer our strong support for the "VA Accountability First Act of 2017." IAVA believes that reform is needed at the VA and we will continue to support current and future legislation that brings about meaningful improvement.

It has been nearly three years since the scandal in Phoenix alerted the country to the outrageous state of the VA health care system. And yet not enough has been done to ensure that the VA is equipped with the necessary authorities to address workforce accountability. The large majority of VA employees serve veterans with distinction, but there are employees whose poor performance or, at worst, gross negligence, put veterans at risk. They need to immediately be removed from the VA to restore trust within the VA system. IAVA believes that this legislation provides the VA leadership those necessary authorities while still providing due process.

In supporting this legislation, we ask that you, and all Members of Congress commit to passing meaningful VA reform in the 115th Congress. In the 114th Congress, too often the opportunity to pass such legislation was lost because of minor disagreements over certain policy aspects. As a result, despite the bipartisan consensus in Congress that such reform was, and still is, desperately needed, this nation's veterans are still awaiting comprehensive reform.

Veterans have made great sacrifices in service to our nation. IAVA believes they deserve a VA that provides them with first class, quality, timely care. Congress must act to finally achieve this. If you have any questions, please contact me at [thomas@iava.org](mailto:thomas@iava.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Porter', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Tom Porter  
Legislative Director  
Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America