

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 28, 2022

Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Military  
Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related  
Agencies  
HT-2, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member John Carter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Military  
Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related  
Agencies  
HT-2, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz and Ranking Member Carter,

We write to request inclusion of language in the fiscal year 2023 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act to ensure adequate care for veterans suffering from severe traumatic brain injuries (TBI) who require long-term residential care.

Each year, thousands of veterans are diagnosed with a TBI. While veterans with mild or moderate TBIs may return to full health after appropriate care, veterans with severe TBIs will be affected for the rest of their lives. Those veterans are likely to exhibit changes in memory, reasoning, impulse control, appropriate behavior, language, and emotional regulation. As a result, they will require an intensive level of long-term care.

After sustained pressure from Congress, we are pleased to see that the Department of Veterans Affairs has made progress in implementing Veterans Care Agreements to allow private providers to contract with the VA to provide appropriate long-term care. However, more needs to be done to educate case managers and families about options available to them. The GAO recognized this need for further efforts in specialty care in its February 2020 report titled “Veterans’ Use of Long-Term Care is Increasing, and the VA Faces Challenges in Meeting the Demand” (GAO-20-284). The report states that the VA’s Geriatric and Extended Care Office “has not established measurable goals for its efforts to address difficulties meeting veterans’ needs for specialty care” and that “without measurable goals...VA is limited in its ability to better plan for and understand progress towards addressing the challenges it faces meeting veterans’ long-term care needs.”

Accordingly, we request that the following language be included in the fiscal year 2023 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill:

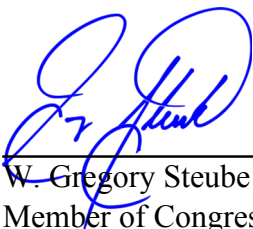
Long-Term Care for Veterans with Severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). — The Committee continues to note the increasing prevalence of deployment-related traumatic brain injuries. This increase continues to demonstrate the longstanding need for providing adequate long-term specialty care for Veterans suffering from severe TBIs. The Committee is encouraged by the Department’s progress in using agreements with non-VA providers to ensure all Veterans receive such long-term specialty care in their communities and directs the Department to continue entering into such agreements, to educate case managers on all tools available to provide Veterans with long-term

specialty care outside the VA system, and to provide quarterly updates to Congress on the Department's progress on providing access to long-term care to veterans with severe TBIs.

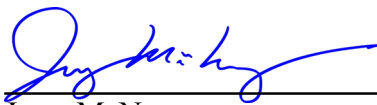
Sincerely,



Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



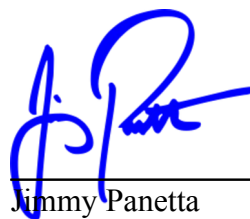
Lisa C. McClain  
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran  
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



Antonio Delgado  
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons IV  
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



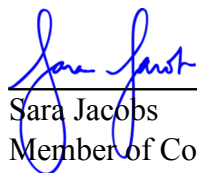
Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



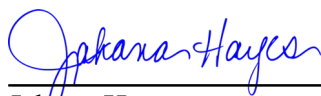
Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski  
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



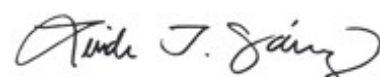
Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



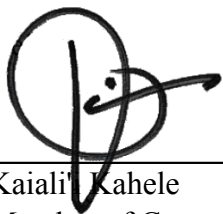
Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



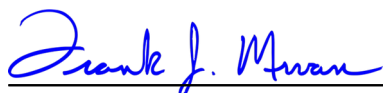
Kaiali'i Kahele  
Member of Congress



Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley  
Member of Congress



Ken Buck  
Member of Congress



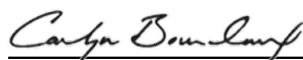
Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Carolyn Bourdeaux  
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



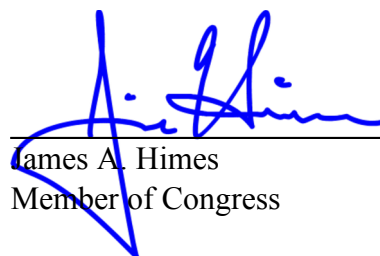
Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



James A. Himes  
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



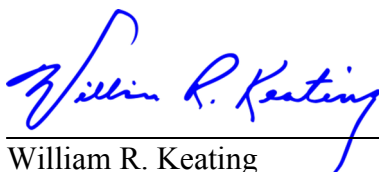
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress




Aumua Amata Coleman  
Radewagen  
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



Marie Newman  
Member of Congress



Anthony G. Brown  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Daniel Meuser  
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Ted Budd  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



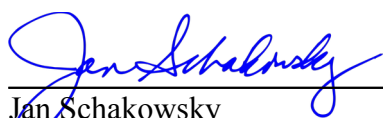
Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



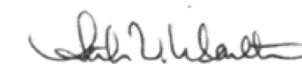
Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress

*André Carson*

André Carson  
Member of Congress



SETH MOULTON  
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress



Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



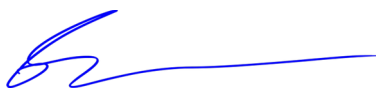
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Al Green  
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



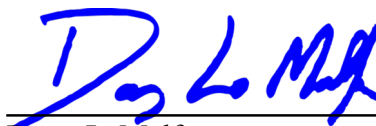
Brian J. Mast  
Member of Congress



Elissa Slotkin  
Member of Congress



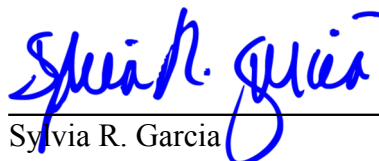
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



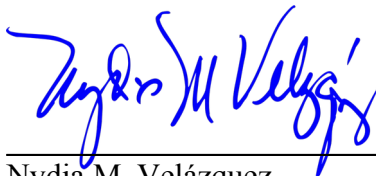
Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

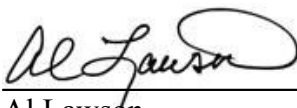


Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



---

Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress



---

Al Lawson  
Member of Congress



---

Bradley Scott Schneider  
Member of Congress



---

Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



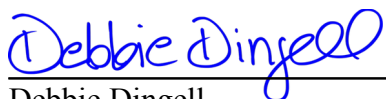
---

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



---

Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress



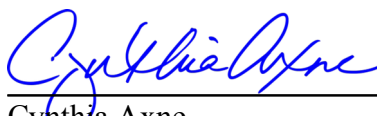
---

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



---

Lizzie Fletcher  
Member of Congress



---

Cynthia Axne  
Member of Congress



---

Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



---

Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



---

Alexander X. Mooney  
Member of Congress



---

Susan Wild  
Member of Congress



---

Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress

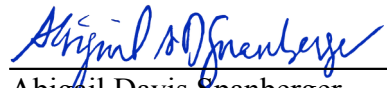




Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress



Andy Kim  
Member of Congress



Abigail Davis Spanberger  
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



Jason Crow  
Member of Congress