



February 8, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, Room S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, Room S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the more than 5 million veterans our organizations represent, and for the benefit of all 21 million veterans across the nation, we are writing to ask for your commitment to expedite the Senate's confirmation of Dr. David Shulkin as Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

As you know, on February 7, 2017, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee unanimously voted to refer the nomination of Dr. Shulkin, who currently serves as the Under Secretary of Health, to the full Senate for its consideration. Dr. Shulkin was previously confirmed by the Senate in July 2015 to serve as the Under Secretary for Health by voice vote without any debate or opposition. In this role, he has successfully managed the largest healthcare network in the country, helping to lead the transformation of the system following the waitlist and access scandals uncovered in 2014. Dr. Shulkin has appeared before Congress numerous times and has always been honest, cooperative and forthcoming in his testimony, proposing effective ways to improve the health care system for the men and women who have proudly worn the uniform. He has led the Veterans Health Administration through a difficult transition period by installing new leadership and implementing new reform plans to improve access and quality of care. Once confirmed as Secretary, we are confident he will continue moving VA forward so that it can better meet the needs of America's veterans, their families and survivors.

Today, VA is at a crucial moment in history with fundamental reforms underway but many challenges still remaining. However, to secure enduring and meaningful change, strong leadership is absolutely critical. Without swift action to confirm a VA Secretary, needed change could be delayed and veterans may once again be forced to wait too long to receive the benefits they have earned and deserve.

Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer, we urge you to take any action necessary to immediately bring to this nomination to the Senate floor, whether through unanimous

consent or other expedited procedures, so that the Senate can vote on confirming Dr. David Shulkin as Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

We thank you for your consideration and quick action and we look forward to working with you to support and empower America's veterans who have sacrificed so much in defense of our freedom.

Respectfully,

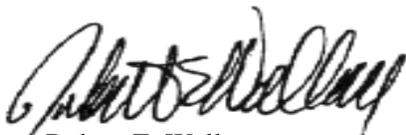
Respectfully,



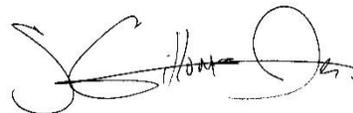
Garry J. Augustine
Executive Director
Washington Headquarters
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)



Verna L. Jones
Executive Director
The American Legion



Robert E. Wallace
Executive Director
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States



Sherman Gillums, Jr.
Executive Director
Paralyzed Veterans of America



Joseph R. Chenelly
Executive Director
AMVETS



Rick Weidman
Executive Director for Policy
Vietnam Veterans of America

Cc. – Members of the United States Senate