



# National Association of State Veterans Homes

*“Caring for America’s Heroes”*

January 21, 2014

The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs  
412 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

As President of the National Association of State Veterans Homes (NASVH), I am writing to offer our support for S. 1950, the “Comprehensive Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014”, a comprehensive bill containing numerous provisions to strengthen veterans health care, benefits and economic opportunities in order to improve the lives of veterans, their families and caregivers.

In particular, Section 805 of the bill includes language to allow certain State Veterans Homes that have the capacity to support a homeless veterans program within their domiciliary program to compete for federal grants for that purpose. This section is similar to the language of S. 1540, introduced by Senator Sherrod Brown, to remove a legal and financial obstacle that effectively prevents any State Veterans Home from applying for federal funding in order to operate a homeless veterans program. We strongly support that bill and this language, and we commend you for including it as part of S. 1950.

As you know, State Veterans Homes are the largest provider of long term care for America’s veterans, with over 30,000 beds used for skilled nursing and domiciliary care. NASVH represents the interests of 146 State Homes located in all 50 states. Our primary mission is to ensure that each and every eligible U.S. veteran receives the benefits, services, long term health care and respect which they have earned by their service and sacrifice. NASVH also ensures that no veteran is in need or distress and that the level of care and services provided by State Veterans Homes meets or exceeds the highest standards available. Passage of S. 1950 will help us fulfill our mission and we strongly support this legislation.

Chairman Sanders, thank you for all you have done and are doing to support State Veterans Homes and the veterans for whom we care.

Sincerely,

Brad Slagle  
NASVH President