



Lt Gen Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret)
President and CEO

November 28, 2017

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
United States Senate
412 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
United States Senate
825A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Isakson and Ranking Member Tester,

On behalf of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), I write to thank you for your strong leadership in introducing the Caring for Our Veterans Act of 2017. As the nation's largest and most influential association of military officers and the leading voice for all members of the military community, MOAA greatly appreciates your steadfast commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of our veterans and their families.

We lend our support for your bill and recognize the enormous bipartisan effort put forth to craft such a significant piece of legislation. This will improve veterans' health care while also providing a solid plan for transforming the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) into a 21st Century health system.

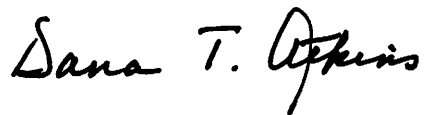
Your legislation is critical and timely. MOAA is particularly appreciative of the following provisions:

- Establishing a single program to provide care to veterans through community providers.
- Requiring VA to be the primary coordinator of veterans' health care and directing VA to establish an integrated, high-performing network, to include VA and private providers.
- Requiring VA to establish clinical standards and an appeals process for accessing care based on medical need. This empowers the veteran and the VA primary care provider to work together in deciding how to obtain care in the community, when access and quality measures are deficient in the VA direct-care system.

- Establishing a number of improvements to strengthen the VA direct-care system. These improvements include expanding graduate medical education, loan repayment and residency programs for physicians, enhancing delivery of telemedicine, expanding VA's Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program to veterans of all eras, and strengthening workforce management and development programs for recruiting, retention and training, as well as specific funding for improving internal VA medical capacity and facilities management.

MOAA values the opportunity to collaborate with you and your staff on this critical legislation. We look forward to working with the Senate and House Committees for swift passage of a bipartisan, bicameral veterans' health care bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana T. Atkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "D".