

May 21, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Johnny Isakson
418 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester
825A Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators McConnell, Schumer, Isakson and Tester:

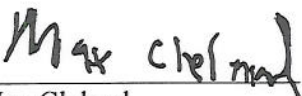
As the nation approaches Memorial Day, a day on which our nation will honor those whom have given, in Lincoln's words, "their last full measure of devotion", we encourage you to take up and pass the VA MISSION Act of 2018.


Last week, 38 of our nation's most respected Veterans and Military Service Organizations (VSOs and MSOs), including the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Paralyzed Veterans of America, sent a letter to Congress saying they "strongly support" this "historic" legislation. We agree with their assertion that this critical legislation will strengthen VA's ability to recruit, hire and retain quality medical personnel; realign and modernize VA's health care infrastructure; consolidate and reform VA's community care programs, while extending needed funding for the current Veterans Choice Program for one year; and, create a new caregivers program for aging and disabled Veterans injured before September 11, 2001.

As those privileged with leading the Department charged with carrying out Lincoln's vision of caring for those who "have borne the battle", each faced with challenges to improve the execution of VA's critical mission on behalf of a grateful nation, we believe this bipartisan legislation to be critical to its ability to effectively deliver on the needs of this generation's Veterans and the next.

The House voted overwhelmingly to pass this legislation on May 16, and we hope that you and your colleagues can join them by taking it up and passing it in the Senate and sending it to the President's desk for signature before Memorial Day, as a fitting tribute and commitment to all who have worn the cloth of the nation.

Respectfully,


Max Cleland


Anthony Principi



Jim Nicholson



James Peake



Eric Shinseki



Robert A. McDonald



David Shulkin