

JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA,  
CHAIRMAN  
JERRY MORAN, KANSAS  
JOHN BOOZMAN, ARKANSAS  
DEAN HELLER, NEVADA  
BILL CASSIDY, LOUISIANA  
MIKE ROUNDS, SOUTH DAKOTA  
THOM TILLIS, NORTH CAROLINA  
DAN SULLIVAN, ALASKA

JON TESTER, MONTANA,  
RANKING MEMBER  
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON  
BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT  
SHERROD BROWN, OHIO  
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT  
MAZIE HIRONO, HAWAII  
JOE MANCHIN III, WEST VIRGINIA

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 9, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for the honor and opportunity to meet in person to discuss priorities for our great nation. I wanted to leave you with a request from my position as Ranking Member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

The bipartisan Caring for Our Veterans Act, which passed out of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee 14-1 and has the support of 26 Veterans Service Organizations, builds on your efforts to reform the Department of Veterans Affairs. It mirrors your Administration's request to put health care decisions in the hands of veterans and their doctors by removing the bureaucracy surrounding veterans' health care. This legislation would also strengthen opioid prescription guidelines for VA, improve accountability and transparency at VA, and ensure that veterans of all generations, including Vietnam-era veterans, are eligible for caregiver assistance.

You campaigned on fixing the systemic problems at VA and have delivered on those promises by signing into law a number of historic bills on behalf of veterans and their families, including major reforms to the G.I. Bill and the appeals process, and to make it easier for VA to get rid of bad employees. Your signature on legislation to reform VA health care would headline any veterans' legislative successes of your Presidency. I therefore ask for your full, public support of the bipartisan Caring for Our Veterans Act, and hope we can count on your leadership to bring this bipartisan bill across the finish line.

Thank you for your consideration, Mr. President. And thank you for your service to America.

Respectfully,



Jon Tester  
Ranking Member