



May 20th, 2016

The Honorable Elise Stefanik
House of Representatives
512 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 3989, the "Support Our Military Caregivers" Act

Dear Congresswoman Stefanik,

The American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) writes to thank you for your leadership regarding the, "Support our Military Caregivers" act. We appreciate the initiative you have taken to improve the processing times for post 9/11 veterans and their caregivers who apply for Veteran Administration benefits under the VA's "Caregiver Program".

As you have recognized, many more caregivers of post 9/11 veterans have and continue to apply for much needed benefits under the Caregiver Program than anyone had anticipated. This has not only created backlogs in processing initial requests for benefits but has also significantly increased the numbers of appeals that are being filed after eligibility and benefit adjudication have occurred.

The American Military Retirees Association fully supports your proposed solution to reduce lengthy processing times. By outsourcing appeals claims to a fully vetted and qualified third party, in compliance with Federal Acquisition regulations, both initial and appeals claims will be processed with much greater speed. As a result, our veterans and their caregivers will receive the support that they so desperately need and that the Caregiver Program was implemented to provide.

We salute your efforts and leadership in addressing this important issue and we would like you to know that you have our sincere thanks. Please feel free to contact us regarding this and any issue affecting veterans, retirees, their families, and their surviving spouses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ted Painter', written in a cursive style.

Ted Painter
National Legislative Director