June 21st, 2016

The Honorable Beto O'Rourke   The Honorable Mike Coffman
House of Representatives   House of Representatives
1330 Longworth HOB   2443 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515   Washington, DC 20515

Re: HR 5337: Veteran Prescription Continuity Act

Dear Congressmen O'Rourke and Coffman,

The American Military Retirees Association (AMRA) writes to thank you for your leadership and cooperation in introducing the Veteran Prescription Continuity Act. As you have recognized, there is currently a disconnect between the DoD and VA prescription drug formularies, resulting in some service members losing access to DoD prescriptions when transitioning to the VA system.

HR 5337 will prevent gaps in prescription availability by requiring the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a joint uniform formulary with respect to pharmaceutical agents. We understand that last year's NDAA took a step in this direction by developing a joint DoD and VA formulary. However, it only accounted for certain medical conditions and did not require the formulary to be regularly updated. Your legislation will require the formulary to allow for new or emergent drugs and prescription medications for the control of pain, sleep disorders, and psychiatric conditions—including post-traumatic stress disorder—and any other conditions determined appropriate by the secretaries.

AMRA is pleased to support bipartisan legislation that will ensure that veterans will be able to continue their prescription drug regimen with as little disruption as possible. This is a common sense step that will make a difference in the lives of thousands of service members, veterans, and their families.

We salute your cooperation and leadership in addressing this important issue. AMRA supports H.R. 5337and we would like you to know that you have our continued thanks. Please feel free to contact us regarding this and any issue affecting veterans, retirees, their families, and their surviving spouses.

Sincerely,

Ted Painter
National Legislative Director