



March 28, 2017

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
United States House of Representatives
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy, we would like to pledge our support for H.R. 1749, the Veterans Early Treatment for Chronic Ailment Resurgence through Examinations (VET CARE) Act.

This bill would require the Veterans Administration (VA) to put in place a four-year pilot program providing dental care for Veterans. Right now, dental care through the VA is limited to those who are 100% disabled or have a direct service connected injury.

Studies have shown that regular dental care helps alleviate certain chronic conditions, reducing overall health care costs. Since the VA spends most of its health care costs on treating Veterans with chronic ailments, like diabetes, heart conditions, and more, dental coverage would help ensure a healthier Veteran population and bring those costs down.

Thank you for taking an active role in such an important issue to the Military and Veteran community by working to improve the lives and careers of those who served our great nation. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at 703-548-5800 or at michael.little@ausn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Joseph Little" followed by "ABH²(AW/Sec)" and "USNR" on a separate line.

Michael J. Little
Director of Legislative Affairs