



March 23, 2017

The Honorable John McCain
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

On behalf of the Association of the United States Navy, we would like to pledge our support for S. 86, the Veterans Choice Continuation Act. This bill would amend the Veterans, Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 to modify the termination date for the Veterans Choice Program.

The Veterans Choice Program that was created by the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act is set to expire three years after the law's enactment on August 7, 2017. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has indicated to the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees that potentially \$1 billion of the original allocated funding for the program could still be available on this date. The Veterans Choice Continuation Act would remove this statutory sunset date and instead allow the program to continue until the original funding has been expended. This would help ensure that veterans using the Choice Card could continue to visit doctors under this authority in their communities past August.

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/Sea)" and "USNR" below it.

Michael J. Little
Director of Legislative Affairs