



March 23, 2017

The Honorable Dean Heller
United States Senate
324 Hart 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. 113, the Maximizing Efficiency and Improving Access to Providers at the Department of Veterans Affairs Act. This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out an 18-month pilot program to increase the use of medical scribes to maximize the efficiency of physicians at VA medical facilities. A "medical scribe" is defined as a member of the medical team hired and trained to perform documentation in an electronic health record to maximize the productivity of a physician.

The program will be conducted at no fewer than five medical facilities that:

- Have a high volume of patients
- Are in rural areas where there is a shortage of physicians and where each physician has a high caseload.

To carry out the program, the VA will enter into a contract with one or more nongovernmental entities that train and employ professional medical scribes who specialize in the collection of medical data and data entry into electronic health records.

The VA will collect data to determine the effectiveness of the program, including information on changes in the average wait times for veterans to receive care, the average number of patients that a physician is able to see, the average amount of time such a physician spends on documentation, physician satisfaction and retention scores, and patient satisfaction scores.

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". To the right of the signature, the text "ABH² (M/Gen)" and "USNR" is written in blue ink.

Michael J. Little
Director of Legislative Affairs

