



March 23, 2017

The Honorable Peter King
United States House of Representatives
339 Cannon 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. 411, the Veteran Suicide Prevention Act. This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to complete a publicly available review of the deaths of all covered veterans who died by suicide during the preceding five-year period.

This review will include:

- The total number of veterans who died by suicide during the five year period
- A summary that includes age, gender, and race
- A list of the medications prescribed to, and found in the systems of, such veterans at the time of their deaths, and a summary of medical diagnoses by VA physicians which led to the prescribing of such medications
- The number of instances in which the veteran was concurrently on multiple medications prescribed by VA physicians
- The percentage of veterans who were not taking any medication prescribed by a VA physician
- The percentage of veterans with combat experience or trauma
- Veterans Health Administration facilities with markedly high prescription and patient suicide rates
- A description of VA policies governing the prescribing of medications
- Recommendations to improve the safety and well being of veterans

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 (Navy) USNR" is written in blue ink.

Michael J. Little
Director of Legislative Affairs

