



March 23, 2017

The Honorable Jackie Walorski
United States House of Representatives
419 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. 467, the VA scheduling Accountability Act. This bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that each VA medical facility annually certifies that it is in full compliance with all provisions of law and regulations relating to scheduling appointments for veterans hospital care and medical services. The VA may not waive any applicable provision of such laws or regulations.

If unable to make such certification, the facility shall provide the VA with an explanation of noncompliance and a description of compliance actions being taken. If a facility does not make a certification for any year, each covered official may not receive specified awards or bonuses during the subsequent year. A covered official is the: director, chief of staff, associate director, associate director for patient care, and deputy chief of staff.

A 2014 report issued by the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) found that a senior VA official in May 2013 waived a requirement that medical facility directors annually certify their compliance with the VA's scheduling policies. Waiving this requirement reduces accountability for facilities charged with caring for veterans and damages the integrity of wait time data.

H.R. 467 would reinstate the annual requirement for each facility director to certify compliance with VA scheduling practices and prohibit any future waivers of the requirement. It also would require the Secretary of the VA to submit an annual report to Congress listing facilities that have not certified compliance and providing an explanation for each.

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

