



February 22, 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. 927, to ensure victims of Military Sexual Trauma (MST) will receive the care they need to overcome the physical and psychological pain of MST. The VA currently provides health care related to MST treatment free of charge, but receiving authorization for travel outside of the veterans' Veterans Integrated Service Network to receive treatment remains a problem for many MST patients.

While it is VA policy to provide all health care related to MST for free, a VA Inspector General report highlighted that many veterans are often required to travel far distances for treatment but are unable to obtain travel benefits to access the care they need. Because the VA's Beneficiary Travel Policy does not align with its MST policy, veterans who were victims of MST are often admitted to programs outside the Veterans Integrated Service Network, but cannot obtain authorization for travel funding.

H.R. 927 allows MST victims to be reimbursed for travel outside their Veterans Integrated Service Network when seeking treatment. H.R. 927 is a natural extension of current VA Military Sexual Trauma policy, and it is important to ensure our veterans receive the treatment they need.

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, there is a typed name "Michael J. Little" and the title "USNR" below it.

Michael J. Little
Director of Legislative Affairs