



March 23, 2017

The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter
United States House of Representatives
1530 Longworth 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. 388, the Veterans Health Equity Act of 2017. This legislation would increase access to health care services for veterans in New Hampshire. It requires the VA to ensure that each state has a full-service VA Medical Center or to contract in-state for private care for services that are not offered by the VA. Unlike the Veterans Choice Program, which is temporary and set to expire in August, the Veterans Health Equity Act of 2017 would permanently allow veterans to seek private care in-state when the VA does not offer the service in a veteran's state.

This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that veterans eligible for hospital care and medical services through the VA have access to:

- At least one full-service VA hospital in each of the 48 contiguous states
- Hospital care and medical services comparable to that provided in full-service VA hospitals through contract with other health providers in such states.

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 printed name "Michael J. Little" and the text "ABH²(AW/Sea) USNR" in a smaller font.

Michael J. Little
Director of Legislative Affairs