

REPUBLICANS

JEFF MILLER, FLORIDA, CHAIRMAN

DOUG LAMBORN, COLORADO
GUS M. BILIRAKIS, FLORIDA
DAVID P. ROE, TENNESSEE
BILL FLORES, TEXAS
JEFF DENHAM, CALIFORNIA
JON RUNYAN, NEW JERSEY
DAN BENISHEK, MICHIGAN
TIM HUELSKAMP, KANSAS
MARK E. AMODEI, NEVADA
MIKE COFFMAN, COLORADO
BRAD R. WENSTRUP, OHIO
PAUL COOK, CALIFORNIA
JACKIE WALORSKI, INDIANA

HELEN W. TOLAR, STAFF DIRECTOR
AND CHIEF COUNSEL

DEMOCRATS

MICHAEL H. MICHAUD, MAINE, RANKING

CORRINE BROWN, FLORIDA
MARK TAKANO, CALIFORNIA
JULIA BROWNLEY, CALIFORNIA
DINA TITUS, NEVADA
ANN KIRKPATRICK, ARIZONA
RAUL RUIZ, CALIFORNIA
GLORIA NEGRETE MCLEOD, CALIFORNIA
ANN M. KUSTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
BETO O'ROURKE, TEXAS
TIMOTHY J. WALZ, MINNESOTA

NANCY DOLAN
DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

335 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

<http://veterans.house.gov>

May 22, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to ask for your timely assistance in ending the bureaucratic back and forth on veterans' records, which is negatively affecting veterans' disability claims, and potentially their health. As you may be aware this was one of eight ideas identified to make government work at the Bi- Partisan No Labels policy forum in which more than twenty-five Members of Congress participated. However, this has been a long standing concern and issue that seemingly the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense, cannot resolve. The technology exists, the will is fervent, and the time to fix this is now.

Our nation's veterans and servicemembers deserve the efficiency and effectiveness that would come with a seamless health record. They also deserve the timeliness in resolving their disability claims that may come from DoD providing certified to be complete electronic records to VA for the purpose of adjudicating claims in a timelier manner.

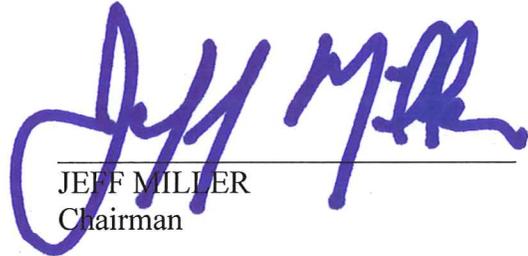
As such, we are asking for your immediate action on two specific items. First, end the back and forth amongst DoD and VA regarding the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record. The time has come for a decision to be made and for the permanent merging of electronic health-care records of the DoD and the VA. Select a system, pick a path, and move forward. We can no longer waste the time or money that will result from endless bureaucratic inaction.

Second, it has come to our attention that many claims are being dramatically delayed by DoD's lack of timeliness in providing records to VA with a particular emphasis on our National Guard and Reserve units. Mr. President, if VA is moving into an electronic processing system, it will be impossible to meet Secretary Shinseki's goal of no claim pending for longer than 125 days if VA is waiting on DoD for 175 days. We are asking for your personal commitment that DoD will provide to VA certified to be complete service, personal, and medical records in an electronic format by the end of this calendar year. We believe a timely turnaround would be DoD making the information available within 21 days of discharge or 45 days for previously separated service members.

Veterans need your leadership to address these issues, Mr. President. Our veterans' welfare depends on these important decisions. We stand ready to assist you in any way that you deem necessary to achieve the requests herein.

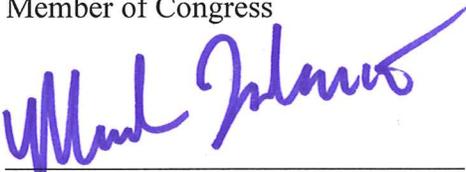
Respectfully,


MICHAEL MICHAUD
Ranking Member

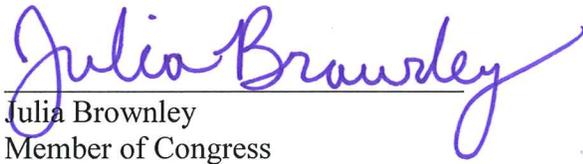

JEFF MILLER
Chairman


Corrine Brown
Member of Congress


Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress


Mark Takano
Member of Congress

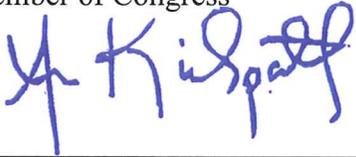

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress


Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

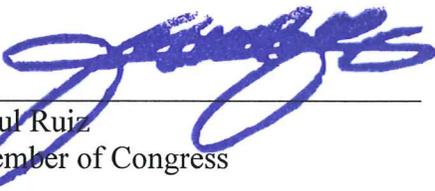

Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



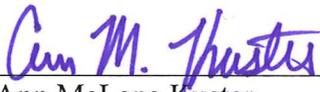
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



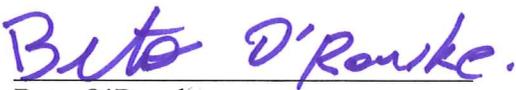
Raul Ruiz
Member of Congress



Gloria Negrete McLeod
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Beto O'Rourke
Member of Congress



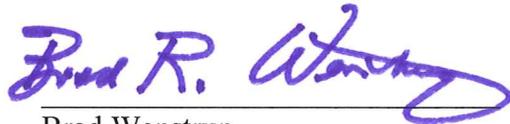
Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



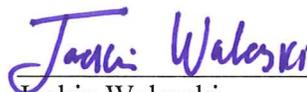
Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Paul Cook
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress