The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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September 20, 2019

The Honorable TJ Cox
United States House of Representatives
1728 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cox:

On behalf of the nearly 2 million members of The American Legion, we are pleased to support the proposed legislation, *Modernizing VA's Records Management Program Act*. This draft legislation, as written, would treat digitized records as originals with respect to claims under the laws administered by the VA. This bill would also ensure that the original records would be returned to the veterans which would allow them to dispute any possible discrepancies in the digitized records.

Veterans often struggle with timely access to their medical records which they require for submitting their VA claims. The transition from paper to digitized records is a necessary step forward to modernize the VA and the claims process. Through American Legion Resolution No. 377, *Support for Veteran Quality of Life*, passed at the 2016 National Convention, we support legislation that would enhance benefits for veterans, ensure timely access to quality VA health care, and support timely decisions on claims and receipt of earned benefits.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue and your continued commitment to the men and women who have served this nation in uniform.

For God & Country,

James W. "Bill" Oxford
National Commander
The American Legion