March 13, 2017

The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster
United States House of Representatives
137 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kuster:

On behalf of the more than 2.2 million members of The American Legion, we express support for the draft legislation entitled, *The VA Prescription Data Accountability Act of 2017*. This draft bill, as currently written, would amend Title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.), to clarify the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to disclose certain patient information to state controlled prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs). The draft bill would also expand that group of individuals to anyone who is prescribed medication through the VA, which includes: descendants of veterans, staff at VA, and individuals receiving disaster relief.

Through The American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission Chairman, transference of medical record information is one of the points we have supported when VA patients are receiving care in the community.

The American Legion applauds your leadership in addressing issues that are important to America's servicemembers, veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. SCHMIDT
National Commander