The American Legion

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OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

March 24, 2017

The Honorable James McGovern
United States House of Representatives
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McGovern:

On behalf of the more than 2.2 million members of The American Legion, we express support for **H.R. 2493** entitled, the *Wounded Warrior Service Dog Act.* This bill, as currently written, would direct the Secretaries of Defense (DOD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) to jointly establish a program for the awarding of competitive grants to non-profit organizations that address physical and mental health needs of servicemembers and veterans with assistance from service dogs.

H.R. 2493 would help expand the use of service dog programs, in keeping with the spirit of The American Legion Resolution number 134: *Service Dogs for Injured Service Personnel and Veterans with Mental Health Conditions* passed at The American Legion's National Convention in 2016, which seeks to ensure VA provides service and guide dogs to veterans with mental health illnesses.

The American Legion supports passage of this legislation, and applauds your leadership in addressing critical issues that are important to America's servicemembers, veterans and their families.

Respectfully,

CHARLES E. SCHMIDT
National Commander