The American Legion

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OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

August 10, 2017

The Honourable Jim Renacci
United States House of Representatives
328 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Renacci:

On behalf of more than 2 million members of The American Legion, the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, we express our support for the draft legislation entitled the *Veterans Health Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2017.* This bill, as currently written, would launch an initiative to help address the growing issue of understaffed medical facilities within the Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

This legislation would require the VHA to monitor different nursing program inadequacies such as the lack of training for nurse recruiters and develop a reporting process to ensure future compliance to such initiatives. The measure also seeks to remedy challenges that VHA has by addressing the oversite, which is currently limited, over its nurse recruitment and retention initiatives. If enacted, this bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) conduct a system-wide evaluation of all nurse recruitment and retention programs.

Through Resolution No. 115, *Department of Veterans Affairs Recruitment and Retention,* passed during our 98th National Convention last August The American Legion calls on Congress to address the recruitment and retention challenges that the VA currently faces. The American Legion will continue to work closely with you to ensure that veterans and their families rally across this country for these improvements.

We greatly appreciate the work of your office on this important proposal that will positively affect thousands of American veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. SCHMIDT
National Commander