The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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May 21, 2015

Honorable Steve Stivers
United States House of Representatives
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Stivers:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of The American Legion I express our support for H.R. 359, the Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act. Your legislation directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy. This legislation would assist in expanding the use of the service dog program in keeping with The American Legion's Resolution 149, *Service Dogs for Injured Service Personnel and Veterans with Mental Health Conditions*, which seeks to "...ensure VA provides service and guide dogs to veterans with mental health illnesses."

This measure is important to veterans because it allows the use of service dogs to assist in the therapy process for injured veterans returning home from wars with the signature wounds known as traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), because service dogs can be instrumental in assisting veterans with mental health illnesses.

The American Legion fully supports H.R. 359 and applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL D. HELM
National Commander