The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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May 21, 2015

Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
SR-154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express our support for the *Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act of 2015.* This measure would expand the eligibility of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Caregiver Support Program, which currently limits caregiver services to post 9/11 veterans and expand caregiver services by including all service era veterans. Resolution 160, passed at The American Legion's 2014 National Convention, calls on Congress to direct the VA to provide the same level of benefits for any veteran regardless of the dates or theater of operations they served in during their military service, as well as ensuring that veterans from all eras receive benefits that are equitable and consistent.

The VA offers veterans who are eligible for the Caregiver Support Program many benefits to include monthly stipends, community resources, partnerships, travel and lodging so veterans can receive medical services. This bill would extend those benefits not only for the post 9/11 veterans but to all veterans and their families who need caregiver services.

The American Legion fully supports the *Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act* and applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's veterans and families.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Helm

MICHAEL D. HELM
National Commander