The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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July 13, 2015

The Honorable Jeff Miller
336 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller,

On behalf of the over 2 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express our support for **H.R. 1379:** *To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Board of Veterans' Appeals to develop evidence in appeal cases, and for other purposes.* As written today, H.R. 1379 provides the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) the ability to develop claims that had been inadequately developed and prematurely denied by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). For years, many veterans' claims have languished as they have been remanded on multiple occasions.

Years of the Appeals Management Center's failures to meet the needs of the BVA have led to years of veterans waiting to have their claims finally adjudicated. Through passage of H.R. 1379, the BVA will have the ability to conduct the necessary development needed to meet VA's duty to assist and could streamline the appellate process. The American Legion supports an efficient and effective appellate process for VA disability claims.

The American Legion supports **H.R. 1379** and applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Helm
National Commander
The American Legion