The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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April 12, 2016

Honorable Beto O'Rourke
U.S. House of Representatives
1330 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative O'Rourke:

On behalf of the more than 2 million members of The American Legion I express full support for the draft legislation entitled, ***The Vet Connect Act of 2016***. This proposed measure, as written, would authorize the VA to share a veteran's entire medical record with Non-VA health care providers that are directly involved in the veteran's care without written consent,.

The American Legion Resolution Number 46, *Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Non-VA Care Programs,* was passed at the Legion's 2012 National Executive Committee Meeting. This resolution urges VA to provide non-VA care providers with full access to VA's Computer Patient Record System (CPRS). This authorization would permit the contracted community provider to review the patient's full history allowing that provider to access all of the quality of care screening and measures tracked in CPRS. Additionally this process will speed up receipt and documentation from the non-VA provider to ensure that information can be added to the veteran's medical record in a timely manner.

Congressman O'Rourke, The American Legion applauds your leadership in addressing issues that are important to America's veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

DALE BARNETT
National Commander