The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

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May 17, 2013

Honorable David "Phil" Roe, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
407 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Roe:

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express support for the Integrated Electronic Health Records (iEHR) for Military and Veterans Act, which would help marshal American innovation to accomplish what, thus far, the combined efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) have been unable to manage. This bill represents a leap forward in the race to create a single, interoperable system of medical records for veterans from the moment they swear their oath of enlistment through their military service and on to the entirety of their civilian life post service.

Our nation's veterans are facing unprecedented delays in receiving health care and submitting claims due in part to a lack of interoperable medical records from the DoD. At this time, it is unclear whether Defense Secretary Hagel will adopt VA's VISTA system or reopen bidding to the private sector. This bill would help leverage the private sector to support a working group committed to expediting delivery of the truly seamless medical record our nation's veterans have been promised time and time again for years.

Because of our commitment to ensuring veterans receive the best healthcare anywhere; The American Legion adopted Resolution 42: *Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record* that "…urges Congress to provide oversight to the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record is fully implemented." Your leadership in this matter shows that Congress is similarly dedicated to ensuring this project moves ahead on solid footing. The American Legion supports passage of this legislation, and applauds your leadership in addressing this critical issue facing our nation's veterans.

Respectfully,

James E. "Jim" Koutz

JAMES E. 'JIM' KOUTZ
National Commander