January 15, 2014

The Honorable Dina Titus
United States House of Representatives
401 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Titus,

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express our support for your legislation addressing the presumption of service connection for mental health conditions related to military sexual trauma (MST).

The American Legion is deeply concerned with the lingering effects of MST, a devastating event affecting thousands of brave men and women who served or are serving in the armed forces. At our National Convention in Indianapolis in August 2012, The American Legion adopted Resolution 295: *Military Sexual Trauma*, which calls upon Legionnaires to urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to *"apply reduced criteria to MST-related PTSD [claims] to match that of combat-related PTSD [claims]."*

Your legislation not only establishes a standard for MST-related PTSD claims nearly identical to the existing standard for combat-related PTSD, it also allows for the recognition of other psychological conditions, such as clinical depression, which can be common aftereffects of sexual trauma.

The American Legion supports this legislation and applauds your leadership in ensuring we not only recognize our nation's heroes for their service on the battlefield, but that we recognize and treat them for wounds incurred anywhere during their service. We cannot leave these survivors behind.

Sincerely,

DANIEL M. DELLINGER
National Commander
The American Legion