The American Legion

OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N.W. ★ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 ★
(202) 263-2986 ★

June 3, 2014

Honorable Richard Burr
United States Senate
SR-217 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burr:

On behalf of the 2.4 million members of The American Legion, I would like to express our support for The Veterans Choice Act. This measure provides resources now to assist veterans being denied health care by lengthy wait times. It is important that any legislation addressing access to health care protects VA as the primary means of care for veterans. The health care veterans will receive through non-VA facilities will still be managed through VA's office of non-VA care, and attention has been given to ensure there is full sharing of vital health care records information between VA and outside providers.

The American Legion believes in a strong VA health care system uniquely designed to meet the specific needs of America's veterans. While this legislation expands on VA's existing authority to allow veterans to receive care outside the system when VA cannot meet the demand for care, it strengthens the system by providing clear direction on how that outside care will be managed with the end goal of bringing those veterans back into the system. The safeguards and improvements built into this bill for non-VA care are consistent with the goals laid out by The American Legion's Resolution 46: *Non-VA Care Programs*, passed by the National Executive Committee in regular meetings in October 2012 to ensure outside VA care was managed in a manner most beneficial to veterans.

Thank you again for your leadership in this area.

Respectfully,

DANIEL M. DELLINGER
National Commander