

Honorable Tom MacArthur

Member of Congress

506 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2015

Dear Congressman MacArthur,

We write to officially offer our full support and endorsement of your legislation, HR 1604 the "Veterans' Mental Health Care Access Act." We believe that this bipartisan legislation will go a long way towards helping veterans quickly receive the type of mental health care they desperately need.

The addition of the Veterans' Choice program last year was an important first step in the right direction. However, the Choice program comes up short in responding to the mental health needs of our veterans. Today, we understand the mental health conditions facing our veterans, like post-traumatic stress disorder, better than we ever have. However, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) doesn't always have the means to treat those conditions in the best way possible. The VA has a serious shortage of mental health professionals to help deal with the problem. We are also concerned that many veterans succumb to a stigma about receiving mental health care at a VA hospital or clinic that may prevent them from reaching out to a VA facility to get the care they need.

We believe that expanding the Choice program so that all veterans can immediately receive full reimbursement of mental health care at private facilities will help to improve the mental health care and well-being of our veterans. We applaud Congressman MacArthur for introducing the legislation and offer our full support for it.

Sincerely,

*Bill West, President
Vietnam Veterans of America
New Jersey Chapter # 899
web site VVA 899.org*

Members in support of HR 1604

Don & ~~Ann~~ ~~Ann~~ ~~Ann~~
 EARL LYNN BELL
 LOUIS C. KOCSIS SR.
 Donald ~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
 Ophelia Van Hee
 George R. ~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
 Jim ~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
 Peter R. Hendon USAF Ret
 BOB Colbert
 Edwood Young
 Charles W. ~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
 Ed ~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
 Angel L. Ortiz
 Kim Simmons
 James Gould
 Val. Hoerisch
 Ron O'Grady
 Hank J. ~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
 Wally Noonan
 Madeline C. Maslak
 John W. Maslak

Jose D. Crespo
 Max ~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
 Frank E. DiVenti
~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
 PETER B. WALKER
 Charlie Bond
 Luis Mangona M SR
 Robert E. Barker
 James R. ~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
 Bill Carlin
 John J. Boswell
 Ronald ~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~
 Robert H. Van Hook
 Tony Landicina
 Betty Jane Weiner AVVA 899
 PAUL J. CACERES
 William F. Esser
 Roy J. Red
 Robert F. Licato SR
~~W~~ ~~W~~ ~~W~~